THE TIMES

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THE SCIENCE *of* AGELESS AGEING

The male and female menopause plus breathing to stay young

PAGES 14 and 15

FILMS

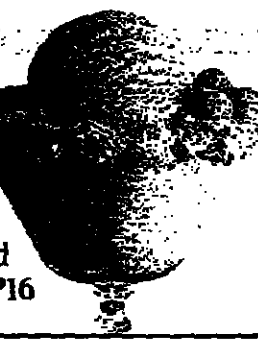
Showgirls

How could sex be this boring?

REVIEW, PAGE 31

The fat without calories

Battleground over a food breakthrough, P16



BOOKS

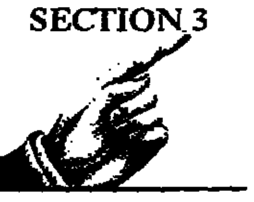
Abraham Lincoln: Portrait of a President

PAGE 34

Appointments

22 pages

SECTION 3



Venables quits to pursue legal battle with Sugar

Venables: legal problems

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

TERRY VENABLES is to stand down as England football coach after the European championships this summer to concentrate on a series of court cases arising from his long-running dispute with Alan Sugar and allegations about his business dealings.

In an announcement yesterday, the Football Association said that Venables had decided not to 'ead England's attempt to qualify for the 1998 World Cup because he feared that a "number of time-consuming legal battles" would interfere with his work.

Venables made up his mind last month, but the announcement was delayed as the FA asked him to reconsider over Christmas. The association will now set about finding a successor, with Kevin Keegan the front-runner.

Venables's decision to go at the end of his two-and-a-half-year contract comes after a stream of media stories about his past financial activities, and he is known to believe that there has been an orchestrated campaign to discredit him since his departure from Tottenham in 1993. The FA said yesterday that he was determined to clear his name.

His wrongful dismissal case against Tottenham and its chairman, Mr Sugar, is likely to be heard in autumn and he also has three libel actions outstanding: one against *Panorama*, one against the *Daily Mirror*, and one in which he is being sued by Mr Sugar.

Venables said yesterday that he was going because the cases could be "problematical". "We would have a World Cup qualifying game around October or November and I could be in court for several weeks. I think it's a bit of an embarrassment to the FA, but in the circumstances I have made the decision and it gives them time to get somebody else."

He ruled out a change of heart even if England, as host country, won the European Championships in June. And asked if he might return at some time in the future, he replied: "I haven't thought that far ahead."

Venables's uncertainty about his future was not helped by the 14-man international committee to which he reports. Members have been wondering for months whether it was wise to extend his contract because of the potential for damaging publicity about his business dealings.

Similar doubts were expressed before his appointment in January 1994 and the FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, admitted at the time "there has been a very concerted lobby against him getting the job". But the FA followed the advice of Jimmy Armfield, who said that managers and players believed Venables to be the best candidate.

Yesterday, Mr Kelly said: "He was overwhelmingly the choice of the professional people. The progress he has made, his influence within the FA and influence on the game generally all reflect well upon the decision to appoint him."

Venables, 51, played for England at every level and had a successful managerial career before becoming chief executive at Tottenham. Since he took over as the national coach, England have played 14 friendly internationals, winning six and losing only one.

Football's disbelief, page 44

Israelis hail King Husain's peace trip

From Christopher Walker in Tel Aviv

KING HUSAIN of Jordan yesterday became the first Arab monarch to visit Tel Aviv, winning the hearts and minds of its 400,000 people by declaring himself "among friends" and boosting the chances of peace in the Middle East.

In the most dramatic personal gesture since President Sadat of Egypt arrived in Jerusalem to engineer the beginning of the end of old hostilities nearly 20 years ago, the Jordanian leader defied the enemies of peace from both the Jewish and Islamic extremes.

Straight-backed, he showed not a flicker of fear although it took a quarter of the whole Israeli police force to protect him in an operation which all but shut down this most Jewish of cities.

"We love him. We admire him more than any other Arab leader," said Perry Meraz, 50, an import agent who stood for more than four hours to catch a glimpse of the royal motorcade sweeping by. "We will never forget that it was his grandfather [King Abdullah] who was the first Arab leader to die in the cause of bringing Jews and Arabs together."

The centrepiece of the trip was the opening of a trauma surgical unit at the hospital where Yitzhak Rabin died nine weeks ago. In a moving ceremony, the Jordanian monarch built on the deep impression he had left by his eloquent address at Rabin's funeral. *With a sincerity of tone that affected even Jewish cynics among the 700-strong audience at the Ichilov hospital, he described Leah Rabin as "my sister" and said: "To be very frank, I feel at home here and among friends."*

He was standing under a huge portrait of Rabin surrounded by thousands of red-and-white carnations and near to television monitors which only minutes before had shown a film of past Israeli and Jordanian wars.

The obvious failure of Rabin's right-wing Jewish assassin to halt the peace process on November 4 was demonstrated by the presence in the hospital of two Jordanian military officers undergoing treatment there.

Until the soldiers were shown on television, many ordinary Israelis could scarcely believe that Jordanian military personnel were now openly coming to Tel Aviv for treatment. One was the victim of a helicopter accident and the other was wounded while serving in Bosnia.

"We are all the sons of Abraham," the king said before helping to unveil a memorial wall to Rabin less than half a mile from the spot where he was shot.

The king, who defied criticism from Arabs at home to make his first official visit to Israel, infuriated the Palestine Liberation Organisation by visiting the largest Jewish city before travelling once to any of the areas they have "liberated" from Israeli occupation. "It is wrong of King Husain to visit Israel," said Jibril al-Rajoub, head of PLO security in the West Bank.

It fell to Gabi Barbash, director general of the hospital to answer the question being asked by every Tel Avivian I interviewed. "Until today, we have not been able to figure out why the Israeli people have so much affection for you despite wars, casualties and animosity that lasted for years," he told the Sandhurst-educated monarch.

"Your tears during the funeral, your majesty, melted our hearts." These were the tears of a friend. The peace is not just a piece cor of paper. Peace is people, daily life and an outstretched hand."

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, told the king: "I do not know any other element that can unite us more than your visit to our country."

Photograph, page 22

CHRIS HARRIS

Claude Banks kisses his wife, Daphne, at their press conference in Hitchingbrooke Hospital yesterday

I am feeling fine, says woman who was pronounced dead

By Tim Jones and Joanna Bale

THE woman who came back from the dead said yesterday that she felt fine as the doctor who declared her dead apologised.

Daphne Banks, who is still recovering in hospital, looked pale but was able to walk unaided as she appeared with her husband, Claude, at a news conference. She refused to comment on her experience and would only say: "I'm fine, thank you."

Her solicitor, Anthony Northey, said that Mrs Banks, 61, had attempted suicide with an overdose at her home in Stonely, near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, on New Year's Eve. David Roberts, a GP who is based in the nearby village of Great Staughton, wrongly declared her dead.

Mr Northey said: "Daphne and Claude Banks have had the opportunity of reflecting carefully over the recent traumatic events and the various options open to them. They have decided against making any formal complaint to the Family Health Services Authority or the General Medical Council or the Health Service Ombudsman. They have also decided that they do not intend to institute legal proceedings. Obviously the doctor in question made an error of judgment, but luckily the error has not had fatal consequences."

He added: "The family are just extremely grateful and relieved that Daphne is alive and making very good progress. Daphne unfortunately suffers from epilepsy. As a result, she was not able to drive. Because of her increasing years she was no longer able to walk into the village of Kimbolton, some distance from her home. She felt very lonely and isolated and started to suffer from depression.

"On New Year's Eve it came to a head. She could not face going on. She took a large quantity of her epilepsy tablets and also some sleeping tablets. She climbed into bed and just drifted off to sleep."

Mr Northey said Mr Banks had found his wife in the early hours of New Year's Day. He had called the ambulance service who arranged for a GP to attend the home. Dr Roberts examined Mrs Banks and told Mr Banks that she was dead. The doctor then called an undertaker.

Ken Davison, a family friend, spotted a varicose vein twitching, then heard her snore, soon after she was delivered to the mortuary of Hinchingbrooke Hospital at about 4.30am. An emergency resuscitation team was called and she was taken to an intensive care ward. After three days in intensive care Mrs Banks was transferred to a general ward where she took a get-well call from John Major, their local MP.

Mr Northey revealed that Mrs Banks had little recollection of the next five days. He said: "Her next recollection was of her daughter leaning over her for a few brief seconds. She promptly went back to sleep but then drifted in and out of consciousness for

Continued on page 2, col 5

Body and Mind, page 16

Balloonist lands after SOS over Atlantic

From Quentin Letts in New York

AN AMERICAN balloonist's attempt to circumnavigate the globe came to grief off Canada yesterday. Steve Fossett, 51, a Chicago banker, managed to land his one-man balloon, *Solo Challenger*, on a field in New Brunswick hours after it seemed he would ditch in the potentially deadly waters of the North Atlantic.

Mr Fossett jettisoned belongings to reduce weight as he fought to keep the balloon above the waves after burner problems developed. He activated his emergency beacon at 7.16am in poor conditions — snow, wind and cloud cover at 2,000 ft — but with visibility down to a mile, rescuers spent the morning trying to locate his balloon.

Two helicopters, a Hercules aeroplane and a coastguard cutter were sent to the Bay of Fundy to seek the stricken balloon. Discarded items from the balloon were found in the water, initially creating unease among rescuers, but setting a trail to the field where it had landed.

Richard Branson's balloon, *Global Challenger*, will take off from Marrakesh, Morocco, at the weekend — and so will a Dutch balloon, *Unicef Flyer*, from The Netherlands.

Elizabeth's story

THE MOTHER, THE WIFE, THE MONARCH

On Saturday in *The Times*, the first part of our serialisation of *Elizabeth*, an intimate portrait by the acclaimed biographer of George VI

Tomorrow, Valerie Grove meets Sarah Bradford, who drew upon previously unpublished diaries, memoirs and interviews to write her authoritative biography of a wife, mother and monarch in her seventieth year

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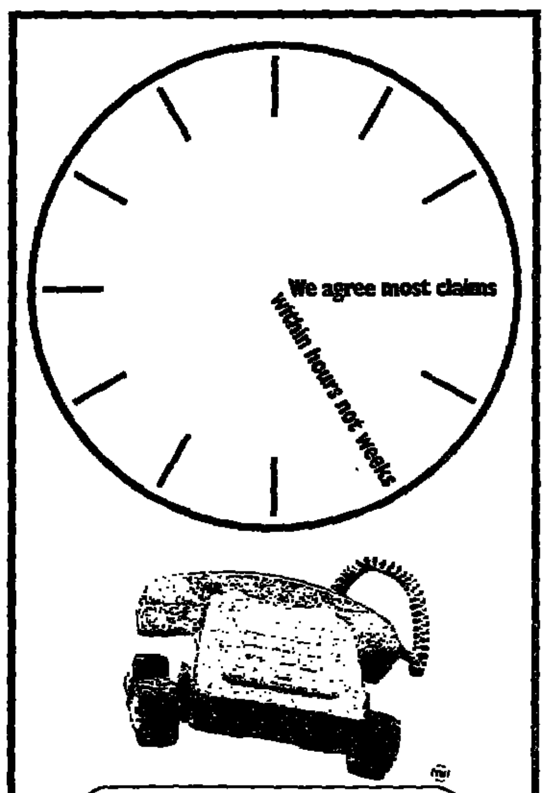

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Bitter row over school's pub-voucher prizes

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE HEADMASTER of a comprehensive school was accused of encouraging under-age drinking yesterday by offering pub luncheon vouchers as form prizes to children as young as 11.

Pupils at Garibaldi School in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, are being awarded £10 vouchers towards meals with their parents as term prizes for regular attendance and good conduct. *Only sixth-formers, many legally-entitled to drink alcohol, are excluded.*

Classmates have voted for the most deserving recipients of the first vouchers, to be presented next week by Bill McCosh, managing director of Mansfield Brewery and a school governor. Vouchers can be cashed at the brewery's pubs which serve meals.

But the scheme has aroused controversy. Richard Willis, executive director of the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency, said: "This will initiate children into the whole psychology of drinking. It will get them used to public houses."

The local Methodist minister, the Rev Norman Bray, said: "The less familiar young people are with the inside of public houses, the better . . . I don't think the school should be doing anything which might lead to young people turning to drink."

The 1,000-pupil school has an extensive reward system, which it credits in part for a dramatic improvement in examination results. The latest scheme is the idea of Bob Salisbury, the head teacher, who said: "Every parent we spoke to already took their children out. It is a preposterous notion that the vouchers will be used for booze. They are only usable for meals with the family.

"We were looking for something inventive to reward pupils, but whenever you come up with a novel idea you must expect criticism."

TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS..........22, 44
LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
WILLIAM REES-MOGG.19
ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE..........41
COURT & SOCIAL......... 20
SPORT 38-42, 44
BODY & MIND 16
BOOKS 34, 35

هكذا من الأصل

مكان الأصل

Classless ticket for man on the Lords omnibus

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Toffs, they say, can mingle with the opposite end of the social scale more easily than with the middle classes. Both ends have so much in common: horse-racing, wayward kids, the problems of illiteracy, debt, gin, rising damp and heating bills.

This truth is plain, watching a House of Lords debate.

You might as well be on the top deck of a number 15 London bus to Poplar and Canning Town. Everyone's terribly matey, everyone has his opinion, few know anything about it, half of them have a bee in their bonnet, everyone enjoys a laugh, and the world takes no notice anyway.

One difference, though, is that the lower orders pay £1.20 to travel on a bus from Piccadilly Circus to Poplar while the views they express en route are not recorded; but members of the Upper Chamber can claim a day subsistence allowance of £33 when attending a debate, and their views are printed in *Hansard*. Also, people are better dressed on the bus, and the insane can be ejected by the conductor. The Lord Chancellor on his woolsack adopts a more detached role and never examines tickets once they have let you on board.

Yesterday in the Lords, two new peers were admitted. The Baroness Hayman and Lord Sewel were introduced. This, the noble equivalent of presenting your season photo-pass (for life), involves a good deal of to-ing and fro-ing and bowing by people dressed in carpets.

After the ceremonials, the Lord Chancellor told them all to hold very tight, *ting-ting* (or, rather, "*hear-hear*") and the journey commenced. The first discussion on our noble bus was about pensions and was initiated by the Baroness Strange in a home-knitted cardi. She said there were as many as "8,000 ladies in limbo" waiting for widows' pensions, and it was a disgrace. Another of their ladyships observed that some people might die before they got their pensions, and an annoyed muttering began. One peer wondered why the unemployed couldn't be drafted in to do something useful, like processing pension applications. *Ting-ting*. And the bus moved on.

... To air pollution. Lord Campbell of Croy wanted to know what the government minister was going to do about it, especially "particulates from diesel". Lord Campbell of Alloway (Campbells and Mackays in the Lords are like Smiths and Patels in Poplar) grew restive: "What *is* a particulate? What's it all about?" Everyone laughed. Few knew. Viscount Goschen explained the difference between diesel and petrol: "One puts out emissions of one type, and the other puts out emissions of the other type." Noble heads nodded.

Lord Caldecote was especially bothered by lorries thundering past all the time. Lord Stoddart of Swindon wished we could all go back to trolley buses. Lady Seear had personal experience of the adverse effects of diesel fumes and — *ting-ting* ...

We reached the European Parliament. There were confused opinions about its costs. Lord Bruce of Donington (Lord Angry) had a rant, his mates (used to it) chuckling. "And what are they going to do about it?" he barked.

Ting-ting. A new bus. A debate on homoeopathy and alternative medicine. A nice, decent-sounding man with glasses called Lord Baldwin of Bewdley thought we should take it more seriously. In the queue behind him waited 26 peers, one a bishop, listed to speak. Each had examples (Lord Winston from his grandma). Some bore evidence of acupuncture, others of osteopathy. They discussed yoga ...

Ting-ting. I rang the bell. Time for our sketch to get off.

Labour leader welcomes Prime Minister 'yielding up' one-nation politics

Blair and Major clash on stakeholder society

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

TONY BLAIR claimed last night that John Major had abandoned one-nation politics with his rejection of the Labour leader's vision of a stakeholder society. The two leaders locked horns over Mr Blair's so-called "big idea" which both admitted could become the battleground for the next election.

Mr Major told a breakfast meeting of business leaders that Mr Blair had opened up "clear red water" with the Tories by suggesting that he was returning to corporatism. The Labour leader had committed a "fundamental political error" as the stakeholders he envisaged were really special interest groups such as the trade unions.

"What I believe we are seeing is the tip of a plan which is nothing better than fancy packaging for new burdens on business of one sort or another," Mr Major said.

Mr Blair retaliated immediately at a hastily arranged Westminster press briefing by welcoming the attack on his plans for a society in which everyone had a chance to succeed as "yielding up" one-nation politics to Labour. He said it was absurd for Mr Major and Michael Heseltine to attack his vision as a means of giving power back to the trade unions. "They used to say it was only soundbites. But now they are attacking the central economic ground that we have chosen."

Meanwhile, Tory MPs pleaded with Baroness Thatcher not to rock the boat when she speaks tonight on the future of the Tory party. Her right-wing admirers, however, urged her not to compromise her beliefs in her lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies at the Swiss Bank Corporation in the City, although she is certain to back Mr Major and attack Mr Blair.

The disclosure by *The Times* that Lady Thatcher intended to warn her party against the perils of "lurching to the left" sent tremors through the Tory high command, although officials denied that Mr Major or Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, contacted the former prime minister yesterday.

Fearing that Lady Thatcher's intervention could trigger another damaging bout of feuding between the rival Tory factions, Sir Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire South, said on BBC Radio: "Of course, she could play a significant part in the election campaign but not if she seeks to factionalise the Conservative Party."

Major: Labour vote a "reckless gamble"

Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, said it was vital the party was not split on Europe. "We want her to make speeches but supporting the Conservative Party, supporting the Government, supporting us on Europe, not a further round of blood-letting. I urge her, and urge her friends to urge her not to tinker."

But Iain Duncan-Smith, MP for Chingford , said he hoped Lady Thatcher's speech would reaffirm her core Conservative beliefs. "I hope like many others that she will remind us what it is that makes us Conservatives, why we stay Conservatives and what we actually believe in which was so successful."

Mr Blair, announcing that he was planning a special conference of academics, businessmen and politicians to flesh out the idea of a stakeholder society, said that Mr Major could only offer a "mish-mash of reheated 1980s conservatism". It would be a battle between the future and the past, he said. "The Prime Minister has said this is where the battle of ideas is and he has made that clear this morning and we are delighted to join on that ground."

At his breakfast gathering, Mr Major warned voters against playing "Russian roulette with all the barrels loaded" by backing Labour at the polls. It would be a "reckless gamble" that risked throwing away the immense achievements of 16 Tory years.

He accused Labour of pressing for an election because the party knew the people of Britain were about to benefit from a steadily improving economy, rising incomes and general feeling of being better off. "They would like to have an election before that becomes increasingly apparent."

Leading article and letters, page 19

Thatcher: spreads the message of her foundation but has learnt humbler tasks too since leaving office

Tireless Thatcher bestrides globe

By Alice Thomson, political reporter

IN the five years since she lost both her job and the home that went with it, Baroness Thatcher has refused to spend her days in somnolent splendour in the House of Lords. In the last year alone she has visited first America, then Singapore, Rome, Madrid, Beijing, Hong Kong, Bahrain, America again, Japan, France, India, Venice, the Tory Party conference in Blackpool, America, Indonesia and Australia.

The United States is now her and Sir Denis's second home. If she felt betrayed by her own countrymen she always gets a spectacular welcome there and receives at least $50,000 for appearances, sometimes making three speeches, and going to three drinks parties and a dinner in a day. She never discloses how much she has made.

Once when she changed planes in Hawaii at 3am with two hours to wait she insisted on being driven to see Pearl Harbor. Her two detectives, an assistant and Sir Denis act as her companions as she travels the globe, often by private jet, spreading the economic and political gospel of the Thatcher Foundation.

Apart from several operations on her teeth, her friends say she is not the exhausted and bitter woman portrayed by her detractors, but is staggeringly fit for a septuagenarian. She still receives more than 1,000 letters a day, rises at 5am and never goes to bed before midnight.

While few people in the Far East have ever heard of Tony Blair or Michael Portillo, Lady Thatcher only has to swing her handbag in Singapore and she is front page news. Yet the former prime minister has had to learn humbler tasks too. She has learnt to dial telephone numbers herself, remembered how to drive a car and how to cook more than scrambled eggs.

Officials question loyalty of Bill Cash

By Arthur Leathley
Political correspondent

THE Euro-sceptic Tory MP Bill Cash faces a heated meeting tonight with constituency officials angered by what they regard as his disloyalty to John Major and his failure to consult grassroot Conservatives.

Less than two months after being selected to fight the newly created seat of Stone, Mr Cash has been heavily criticised for his conduct in the constituency and his decision to vote against the Government. Last night some officials in the Staffordshire constituency warned him that they would refuse to campaign for him in the general election. He was one of two Tory backbenchers who voted against the Government after a debate on the European common fisheries policy last month.

However, Mr Cash, at present the MP for Stafford, insisted last night that he had received "massive support" from officers of the association for his decision to vote against the Government.

At a meeting with eight constituency officers tonight, he is expected to be asked to explain his actions and be pressed on what one senior official described as his "appalling treatment" of local Conservatives.

Douglas Davis, chairman of the Fulford and Meir Heath branch of the Conservative association, said: "Many people will see his unforgivable decision to vote against the Government as a greater evil than defecting from the party because it shows total disloyalty and is a slap in the face to Mr Major."

Mr Cash has been under heavy criticism from some local Tories ever since his selection in November. After the withdrawal of the two other candidates on the shortlist, Mr Cash was elected unopposed. Formal complaints have been sent by local activists to Conservative Central Office, protesting over the way the association handled the selection process, particularly in failing to call replacement candidates to fight against Mr Cash.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sinn Fein close to deal on weapons

The deadlock in the Irish peace process eased yesterday when Sinn Fein came close to accepting a confidential ministerial proposal that would allow the IRA to destroy its own arms. In its submission to the international commission on terrorist arms, the party said the proposal "may find acceptance" among republicans. Sinn Fein has appeared to accept the Government's insistence that the process must be verified independently.

A Government source gave a guarded welcome to the Sinn Fein paper. However, it was pointed out that the the document also rejected the Government's demand for some weapons to be decommissioned ahead of all-party talks.

Plea for missing

A cross-party group of MPs signed a Commons motion calling on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to help to fund the National Missing Persons Bureau. Last year he suggested the bureau should seek lottery funds, but an application was rejected in December. The charity helps police and families around Britain.

Genetic adviser

An advisory committee on genetic testing is to be set up by the Health Department. The committee will ensure that genetic tests, which can show whether an individual is likely to suffer particular diseases, are supplied safely and used ethically. It will be chaired by the Rev John Polkinghorne, President of Queens' College, Cambridge.

BBC closes gap

BBC Television last year achieved its best ratings against ITV for six years. While the ITV share during the peak 6pm-10pm slot fell by 2.1 per cent to 41.5 per cent, BBC1 recorded a 0.4 rise to 33.6 per cent. ITV's peak-time lead over BBC1 narrowed by 2.5 per cent from 1994 totals to 7.9 per cent.

Girls die in fire

Lisa Jackson, 5, her sister Tanya, 2, and Vicky Charnock, 3, died in a fire at their council house home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, early yesterday. Craig Jackson, 6, was in a critical but stable condition last night. Christine Jackson, 25, mother of Craig, Lisa and Tanya, had jumped from a window.

Dench double

Dame Judi Dench has been nominated for best actress and best actress in a musical in the 1996 Laurence Olivier Awards. Nominations for best actor include Michael Gambon, Daniel Massey and Alex Jennings. The winners will be announced at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on February 18.

Jackpot claimed

The third National Lottery jackpot winner has claimed the last £14 million share of the £42 million payout from last week's double rollover draw, Camelot said yesterday. The ticketholder, like the first two, requested no publicity. It was not known whether the winner was a syndicate or an individual.

£100,000 total

THE TIMES
Christmas
Appeal
in aid of the
Royal Marsden
Hospital

By midday yesterday *The Times* Christmas Appeal on behalf of the Royal Marsden Hospital Children's Cancer Unit had raised £91,366.57p. With donations still coming in and a number of tax rebates due, the final figure is expected to approach £100,000. The hospital was "enormously grateful" to *Times* readers.

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Women MPs fight to save all-female shortlists

By Jill Sherman, political correspondent

SENIOR Labour women MPs yesterday began a campaign to protect all-female shortlists after this week's judgment in one constituency that the policy amounted to sexual discrimination.

Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, led calls for party leaders to appeal against a Leeds industrial tribunal's decision and, if that failed, to find another way of helping more women into Westminster.

"We remain totally and wholeheartedly committed to one of our fundamental principles, equality for women, and ensuring that our democracy is representative," she said. "This judgment is a serious but temporary setback but we will continue to find ways of achieving that objective."

There are signs that Labour leaders are increasingly wary about an appeal. They argue that it might not succeed or could be drawn out. Ms Harman and her colleagues believe that such caution would send the wrong message to would-be female candidates. They are also determined to counteract calls by Roy Hattersley to drop the "silly" scheme immediately.

The women's committee of the party's national executive, which includes Ms Harman, Margaret Beckett and Clare Short, will meet on Monday to draw up alternative schemes for the 14 constituencies where the process has been suspended, for use if an appeal fails.

Helen Jackson, co-chairwoman of the 39 Labour women MPs, said that she would be urging Tony Blair and Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, to appeal against the judgment.

Party officials said last night that any decision about an appeal would have to wait until the tribunal's full written judgment had been received. They played down any chance of an alternative scheme being adopted before the next election.

Woman 'back from dead' feels fine

Continued from page 1

the next couple of days. On Friday, a doctor explained what had happened but what he told her did not seem to sink in. Even now what actually happened seems to be just a story about somebody else." He said that Mrs Banks would not be coming home for "a little while". She and her husband wished to thank all hospital staff, wellwishers and the undertakers firm, Cobbold's, for their "timely alertness".

Mr Banks dabbed tears from his eyes as he listened to the solicitor read the statement. Mr Northey said that the couple had been married for about 40 years and that Mr Banks was hoping that his wife would make a quick recovery.

He said the couple had been offered "considerable sums" for media interviews, but they had decided not to accept any offers and did not intend to give any press interviews.

Earlier yesterday, the local health authority said it planned to take "no further action" over the doctor who wrongly pronounced Mrs Banks dead. Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission said Dr Roberts did not present a danger.

Last night Dr Roberts issued a statement through the Medical Defence Union: "I would like to say how sorry I am about what has happened and I am very pleased Mrs Banks is making good progress. I have been in close contact with Mrs Banks and her family."

Body and Mind, page 16

No pit, no torment: damnation is not as cruel as it is painted, says Anglican report

Church blocks the old road to fiery Hell with good intentions

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

TRADITIONAL images of hellfire and damnation are wrong, says a Church of England report which criticises some past teachings for *trying to frighten people too* much.

"Sadistically expressed" views of eternal torment and punishment left "searing psychological scars on many", it says today. "Christians have professed appalling theologies which made God into a sadistic monster."

Hell should not be seen as eternal torment, but as nothingness, say the senior clergymen who drew up the report *The Mystery of Salvation*, by the Church's doctrine commission. They say Hell is the final and irrevocable "choos*ing of that which is opposed to* God so *completely and so* absolutely that the only end is total non-being."

The report warns that Christians cannot afford to ignore the realities of damna*tion and final judgment*. The Church *had to communicate* its belief in a "saving God ... in a society where there is no agreement about the peril in which we stand, and in which religious language has no natural and agreed reference point."

People have to be saved from sin and death, but society's missing sense of ultimate accountability "has meant losing the shape and meaning" of life. "What is clear, as the century moves to *its close, is that for many people in our culture* there are not only no more divine certainties, but no 'divine'."

Folk religion proved there was a continuing quest for God, but the form of worship had become a *matter of personal choice. In defining the sins people* need saving from, the report argues that the Church must take account of changes in society caused by feminism.

"All the major branches of theology evolved in a context *in which the dominant role of* men passed for the most part unquestioned and indeed unnoticed," the report says.

While the core of sin is often represented as "overweening *pride*", *if women had played a greater part in developing the* concept of sin, they might have placed more emphasis on the failure to assert and take responsibility for oneself.

The former Bishop of St Albans, the *Right Rev John* Taylor, *said that to tell people* they were in peril would mean little when they were seeking self-fulfilment and satisfaction, when they "are having a very good time and their Lottery number might come up on Saturday evening — *undoubtedly people are in* considerable peril, but they are not aware of this."

Different cultures had different evils from which people desired salvation, he said. People *of the New Testament* era *lived in* "*a demonic world* from which salvation was sought." Slaves in America 200 years ago might have been told to bear their suffering in this life because there were clouds of glory to come. *But today, many people were* not concerned about the afterlife. He said: "Today there is a variety of things from which people need to be saved. Salvation is more thought of, rightly or wrongly, in terms of problems within *this life* rather than the life to come."

Asked whether people of other faiths could be saved, Bishop Taylor said: "That is in God's hands."

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Rev Alec Graham, agreed. "In everbody's life there is evidence of some *degree of virtue. But as to* what is final and ultimate, matters rest in God's hands. We are quite clear that if and when we all wake up hereafter and we find that we have been saved, *this will be solely* by the grace of God," he said.

The report is certain to prompt discussion of how people see Hell.

Dr David Jenkins, the *former Bishop of Durham*, said: "I am afraid of contributing to Hell now and I would like to think God can save everyone from Hell. I don't *think we can dodge our responsibilities but I don't* believe He would keep us eternally in Hell."

Hell on earth was "what we produce when we follow our own interests and feelings *without regard to anyone else — politically, it is facism.*"

Lord St John of Fawsley, former Leader of the House of Commons and Master of Emmanuel College Cambridge, said Hell on earth was *standing in a rainstorm on* the platform of an isolated railway station at 12.01 in the morning, knowing that the last train left at midnight. More seriously, it was "that state of total selfishness, ex*cluding all love of God and other human beings.*"

Malcolm Bradbury, author and literary critic, said Hell was a literary party at the Groucho club in London, being forced to listen to authors talking about money and *their agents*.

This view echoed perhaps the pithiest definition, by **Jean-Paul Sartre**, the French existentialist, who said: "Hell is other people."

Dante Alighieri, the medieval *Italian poet*, gave the *traditional view in his poem* The Divine Comedy: "There sighs, lamentations and loud wailings resounded through the starless air, so that at first it made me weep; strange tongues, horrible language; *words of pain, tones of anger*, voices loud and *hoarse* and with these the sound of hands, made a tumult which is whirling through that air forever dark, and sand eddies in a whirlwind."

Dr David Jenkins, top left: political hell is fascism; Dante, top right: heard sighs and loud wailings; Sartre, above left: simply, Hell is other people; Lord St John: selfishness — or a missed train

Apocalypse then: traditional, 15th century portrayal of the fiery pit, in the school of Hieronymus Bosch

Academic's new revelations dismiss 666 as a wrong number

THE BIBLE'S Book of Revelation, inspiration for images of the final judgment and for horror films such as *The Omen*, is not about the end of the world at all, according to new research published today.

It is an historical account of the Christian movement in the first century, says Barbara Thiering, an Australian academic who has analysed mythic themes such as Armageddon, the Beast whose *number is 666, and the* Great Harlot clothed *in purple* and scarlet.

Using the *pesher* technique, a way of uncovering different layers of meaning in the text, Dr Thiering says *Revelation is not a vision of the future but an accurate*, detailed account of events in the early church up until AD114.

Dr Thiering, whose book *Jesus the Man* challenged traditional Christian beliefs *in events such as the virgin* birth, says that Jesus did not die on the cross but remained in deep seclusion for 40 years after the crucifixion, partly for political reasons and partly because he was observing the celibate *rule of his community of ascetics*.

During these years he continued to lead his party of new Christians, directing their *movements* until they reached Rome, *she says*. In an era *when the Christians were seen as the heretics*, the beast "rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems" was the anti-Pope, Simon Magus, she says.

Jezebel was mistress of Magus, the character who in western tradition became Dr Faust who sold his soul to the devil, and could be accused literally of harlotry, she says.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse were priests who *visited villages, riding on horses* because of *their* high status, and bearing banners in an appropriate colour for the season, she argues.

The lion, calf, man and eagle were *the four evangelists who wrote the four* Gospels.

Although she is unusual in using a skilled method of biblical analysis to draw out her conclusions, Dr Thiering is likely to be one of many who offer *new interpretations to Revelation as the millennium* approaches.

Her research was dismissed by the Rev Jonathan Jennings, spokesman for the Church of England, who *said: "This sounds distinctly far-fetched.*

"This certainly does *not* fit with the Church's understanding of the Book of Revelation, which believes it to be the mystical vision of St John the Divine."

British cinemas celebrate birthday with best weekend

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

BRITISH cinemas are celebrating the highest grossing weekend in box-office history. They took more than £7.24 *million last Friday, Saturday and* Sunday, an exhilarating start to the year in which British cinema celebrates its centenary.

It beat the £6.65 million taken in July 1993 on the weekend *that Jurassic Park opened nationwide*. However, the latest success has come from a combination of films catering for a variety of tastes, rather than one runaway success. The highly acclaimed thriller *Seven*, with Brad Pitt, *and Something to Talk About*, starring Julia Roberts, were the main attractions.

Dave Thurston, director of operations for Entertainment Data International (EDI), *said there was such a cross-section of films* that "everyone went to the cinema": the choice also included the latest James Bond, *Goldeneye*; Jim Carrey's *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*; and *Babe*, which *uses special effects* to depict a talking pig that believes it is a sheepdog.

John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Cinema Exhibitors' *Association, which represents 90 per cent of cinema screens*, said: "Most people are usually a bit broke after Christmas and with the rollover of the lottery, people were spending more than usual on that. So it *is* rather fantastic that in the *weekend when all these calls* upon the purse were happening, we hit the highest figure ever."

Nigel Green, joint managing director of Entertainment Film Distributors, which *distributed Seven*, said that the film had taken nearly £2.7 million: "It is one of the biggest openings in Britain — the biggest ever for an independently released film, as *opposed to* a Hollywood studio. Films are acquired at script-stage, and we knew we had a good script. When we saw the film, we knew it would do well. It's part of this renewed interest in cinema. We're very pleased about the result." British cinema-going figures compare well in percentage terms with those in America, Mr Thurston said. "*Of course, they've got a lot more* people than we have. They also never got out of the cinema habit. We had a slump in the 1970s, despite big hit films. People have been saying cinema's been dying since *1948. I'm not convinced.*"

*The industry has been fur*ther bolstered by the growth since 1985 of multiplex cinemas: many of them are out of town, which has encouraged higher attendances in the provinces. *Britain boasts 70 multiplex cinemas*, with about 650 screens and more than 130,000 seats. Warners is opening two multiplexes, in Watford and Croydon, on January 17. All the major *companies are looking* for sites on which to build more.

Mr Wilkinson said that cinema is enjoying such a boom that about 100 screens are expected to be built this year, *compared with about 55 last year.*

Burns discovery divides academics

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A YOUNG Scots academic claims to have found 40 new poems by Robert Burns. News of the discovery, which coin*cides with a three-day conference* on Scotland's national poet at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, comes in the bicentenary year of Burns's death.

The poems, without their *author's name, were spotted* by Patrick Hogg, 35, a writer working on a book entitled *The Patriot Bard*, in two newspapers of the 1790s. His claims have divided the Scottish academic community.

The *Edinburgh Gazateer* and the London paper the *Morning Chronicle* were both radical newspapers to which Burns was known to have contributed and with whose editors he corresponded.

Mr Hogg's theory is that as an exciseman Burns would have to have been very careful about what he wrote. The poems, many of which are believed to be political in tone, are also *more anglicised than* much of Burns's work. Mr Hogg said they "just seemed to jump out of the page" at him. Having read the collected works of Burns many times, *the poems seemed to him to* be a natural fit. One was entitled *Aritus* which Mr Hogg translated as "from the ploughman", Burns's occupation in his early years.

Dr Kenneth Simpson, direc*tor of the Centre of Scottish Cultural Studies at* Strathclyde University and the organiser of the Burns conference that starts today, said authorship would be extremely difficult to prove.

Dr James Mackay, a Burns biographer, *has seen* a few of the poems and believes they are not by Burns. "There is a style to his work that is difficult to define, but if you have been studying it for a lifetime, *you can spot a Burns poem* a mile away. These are definitely inferior in every respect."

The poems will form part of a BBC Omnibus documentary, *Ploughboy of the Western World*, to be broadcast on January 22.

Woman golfer 'froze' after felling man with punch

By Joanna Bale

A WOMAN golfer described yesterday how she "froze" after knocking a businessman *from his bar stool with a right hook when he allegedly caressed* her thigh.

Philomena Vaughan, 42, who struck fellow club member John Price in a crowded bar during an awards evening, told an industrial tribu*nal: "He fell off the stool and I just froze. I just went numb*. It wasn't a violent blow. I think he more or less fell off because he lost his balance."

Mrs Vaughan, who was three times club champion at *Dewstow Golf Club, Gwent*, is claiming she was later sacked unfairly from her job as the golf shop manageress. The tribunal in Cardiff was told the 5ft 6in mother of four was nicknamed "*Muhammad Ali*" *and* "*Rocky*" *after the incident*.

Mrs Vaughan, who said she had drunk a single gin and lemonade, walked past Mr Price, 49, and said she felt his hand go under her waistcoat *to her thigh. She told the* tribunal: "I said 'Take your hand away from me' and pushed his hand. When he moved his hand towards me I said 'I have told you, take your hand away from me'."

Mrs Vaughan claimed Mr Price was smiling and laughing. As she walked away, he made a remark and she asked what he had said. She added: "He cupped his hand and *flicked it across my face*, touching the tip of my nose. As he did that I put my left hand up and then hit him with my right hand on the side of his face."

Mrs Vaughan, of Rogiet, *near Newport, said she went to find her husband Peter*, a company sales manager, who was also attending the event as a prize winner. Mrs Vaughan, who said she was "shaking like hell", *told her* husband: "John Price touched *me up and I have hit him. He's on the floor*." After calming her down and asking the men's captain to look after her, Mr Vaughan approached Mr Price at the bar and told him to "sort himself out".

Mrs Vaughan, who stood up at the hearing to demonstrate the alleged caress, said she was suspended from playing golf two months later by Elwyn Harris, the club committee chairman, after she *refused to sign a paper stating* there had been no assault. She also rejected his request to apologise to Mr Price "because he was a businessman and I was a woman".

The tribunal was adjourned until March.

Vaughan: said Mr Price caressed her thigh at bar

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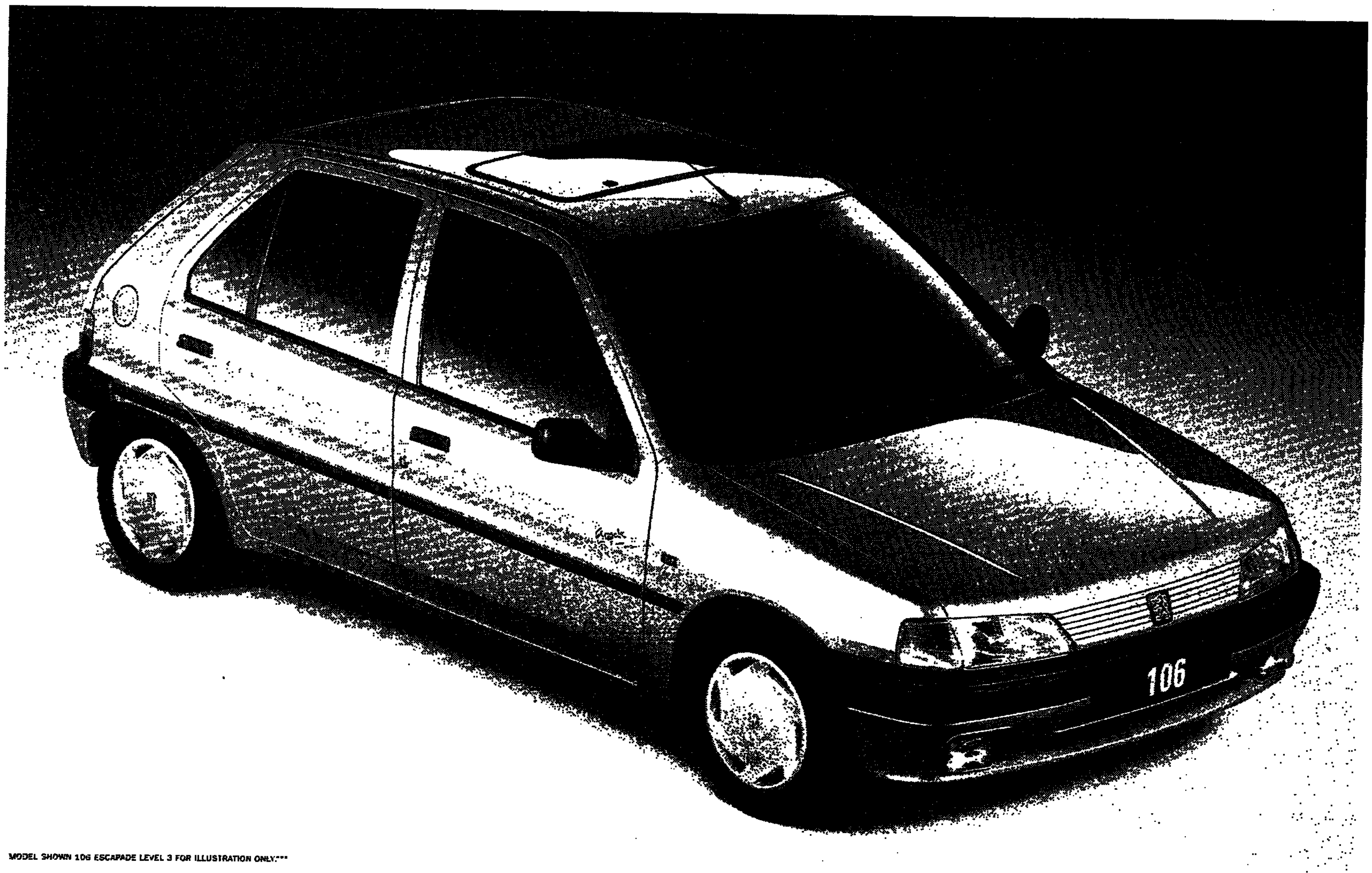

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'An accident waiting to happen'

RAF crews escape as 'dogfighting' Tornados collide

By Paul Wilkinson and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

FOUR crewmen ejected to safety yesterday when two RAF jet fighters collided while apparently engaged in mock combat at about 800ft. Eyewitnesses said the Tornado F3 air defence aircraft touched wings as one was completing a circular manoeuvre over open ground about nine miles from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

One of the Tornados, from 56 Squadron and valued at about £17 million each, crashed 400 yards from the farm of Bill Drury at Rowston. "One plane was doing a big circle and as it came out of the circle it started flying north," he said. "Another plane coming from the north collided with it right above my house. They touched wings and then dropped out of the sky."

One of the pilots is a student flyer although "very experienced", according to Group Captain Mal Gleave, station commander at RAF Coningsby, a training base to convert airmen to Tornado F3s. He added: "All student aircrew who come here have been through all stages of training or they are returning to these airplanes after different duties."

The four RAF crewmen were taken to Lincoln County Hospital by two search and rescue helicopters. An RAF spokesman described their condition as "walking wounded". Group Captain Gleave said one of them might be transferred to hospital in Nottingham as a precaution.

"I'm very relieved that they managed to eject safely. They weren't operating at low altitude so they had a longer time available after they ejected."

A board of inquiry was launched immediately into the collision, which brings to eight the number of Tornado F3s lost in incidents since 1985. Group Captain Gleave declined to speculate on the reasons for the collision but confirmed that the two Tornados were flying in close formation.

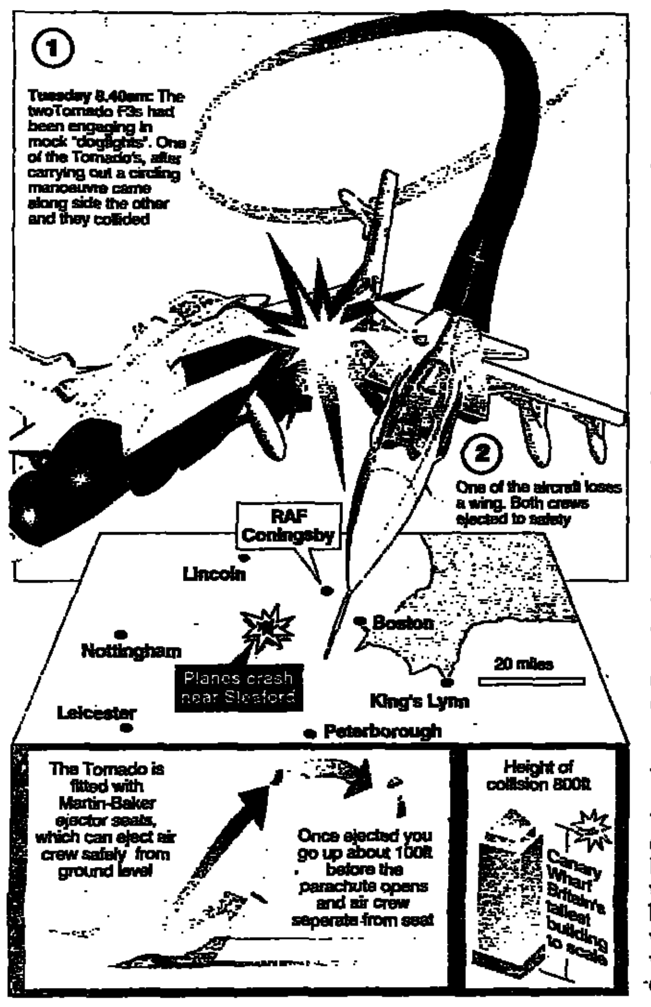
The crash happened at 8.40am, nine miles west of Coningsby. Stewart Rhodes, another eyewitness, saw it as he was working on the roof of his shed in the nearby village of Ewerby.

"I saw the aircraft dogfighting at about 700 to 800 feet," he said. "They were travelling at a fairly high speed. We are used to seeing Tornados dogfighting at low level, but in this case they were fairly high. Suddenly I saw a flash, I thought it was a flare, then I realised they had collided.

"One of the planes started to spiral, he had lost his right wing. The plane hit the ground, it was a fireball and there was a huge crater."

The collision brought complaints from locals that it had been "an accident waiting to happen". Tracy Macham, 30, who lives a few hundred yards from where one of the planes crashed into a field, said: "We often see the planes flying really low and you can't help but think they might hit the village one day."

Group Captain Gleave said: "The feelings of the local community are something we bear in mind at all times and we understand people's fears, but these kind of incidents are very uncommon. The aircraft were not training over residential areas."


①
Tuesday 8.40am: The two Tornado F3s had been engaging in mock "dogfights". One of the Tornado's, after carrying out a circling manoeuvre came along side the other and they collided
②
One of the aircraft loses a wing. Both crews ejected to safety
RAF Coningsby
Lincoln
Boston
Nottingham
Planes crash near Sleaford
20 miles
King's Lynn
Leicester
Peterborough
The Tornado is fitted with Martin-Baker ejector seats, which can eject air crew safely from ground level
Once ejected you go up about 100ft before the parachute opens and air crew seperate from seat
Height of collision 800ft
Canary Wharf Britain's tallest building to scale

SIMON WALKER

The actor's children Alexandra and Matthew launching Push 2000 yesterday with their mother Gae Exton

Superman's son thanks Gemma

By A Staff Reporter

AN 11-year-old disabled girl who wrote to Christopher Reeve, urging him not to give up hope after the riding accident that left him paralysed from the neck down, received his thanks yesterday.

The message from the screen Superman was passed on to Gemma Quin, who has been in a wheelchair since a road crash in 1992, by the actor's 16-year-old son Matthew.

Gemma, from Liverpool, wrote to the actor after his accident at an equestrian event in America last year. Her meeting with his son took place in London at the launch of Push 2000 to raise money for spinal injury research. The International Spinal Research Trust hopes to raise £500,000.

Gemma's father Michael said: "Matthew came over to her and said his dad had asked him to personally thank Gemma for her letter. She has kept in touch with him and recently sent him a fax inviting him over to Liverpool, but we haven't heard anything yet."

Reeve, who is patron of the event, said in a message delivered at the launch by his son: "Since my accident, I have talked to a lot of people about the prospects for finding a cure for paralysis. The fact is we are on the threshold of a new era in medical science. Treatments for this condition are right around the corner. Thousands who are still stuck in these chairs will get up and walk.

"This is a worldwide problem which afflicts several million people, but it is one which international science is quite confident it can solve."

Afterwards Matthew, who was joined by his sister Alexandra, 12, and their mother Gae Exton, spoke of the slow recovery of his father, who hopes to walk again within ten years. "He is going great now he is out of the hospital and at home. He is hoping to come over to England as soon as he can.

"But it all depends on how he is doing. His improvement is unreal. I can see the difference just between visits. He can come off the respirator for one hour and ten minutes a day when he breathes by himself. He is fighting all the way." Alexandra, who like her brother attends school in London, said: "To be up and walking is his ambition."

Gemma: she wrote to the paralysed Reeve

Push 2000 will take place between May 14 and July 10. Three paralysed people in wheelchairs will aim to complete the 1,200-mile trip from Land's End to John O'Groats, during which they will visit 12 spinal injury units.

Ian Walden, director of the event, said: "There is a real and growing enthusiasm which now exists across society to end the permanence of paralysis caused by spinal cord injury. Research funded by the trust has demonstrated that damaged spinal cord nerve fibres can be persuaded to regenerate and restore function and sensitivity.

"We are some way from developing treatments which are ready for clinical trials but we are making most encouraging progress."

Simon Barnes, promotion manager for Push 2000 and one of those taking part, broke his back on an assault course in 1984 and organised a similar event — The Great British Push — ten years ago.

He said: "You may wonder why three guys with broken backs would want to take on this epic slog. But if you consider the slog that faces paralysed people every day of their lives it will help you realise that pushing 1,200 miles over 62 days in a wheelchair isn't really all that challenging."

Coventry air crash prompts new rules

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

TIGHTER controls on foreign aircraft are likely after an investigation into the crash of an Algerian cargo jet, in which five people died.

The crew of the Boeing 737, which had been chartered to carry cattle, was tired after ten hours on duty and could not fully understand instructions in English. The aircraft was not equipped to receive automatic landing guidance, the crew did not carry out proper pre-landing checks and a permit to operate the charter had not been obtained from the Transport Department, the Air Accident Investigation Branch says.

The three Algerian crew and two British animal handlers died after the plane hit an electricity pylon and crashed into woods, narrowly missing a housing estate, as it came into land at Coventry airport in December 1994.

The Transport Department said yesterday that it is to consult British airlines about tighter rules on the use of foreign jets for charter flights.

The Civil Aviation Authority is to make more frequent safety checks on foreign planes and to take part in international checks on countries with poor aviation records.

CORRECTIONS

Mr Harold A Whelehan

On December 19 1994 we reported on the crisis in the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. That article contained references to Mr Harold Whelehan, the former Irish Attorney-General, which suggested that he had deliberately disregarded his duties as Attorney-General over the extradition of a paedophile priest to Northern Ireland. We now accept that this suggestion was unwarranted and apologise to Mr Whelehan for any hurt and embarrassment caused. We have agreed to pay a sum to a charity of Mr Whelehan's choice.

☐ The vice-chairman of the BBC board of governors (report, yesterday) is Lord Cocks, and not Mr David Scholey.

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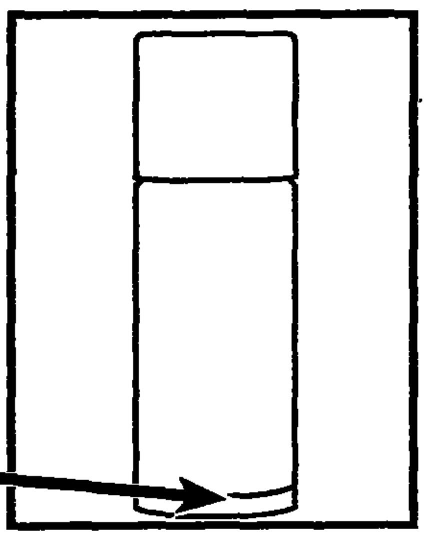

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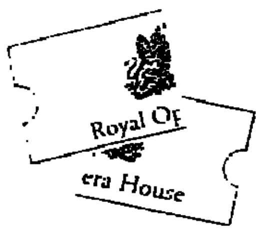

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'Two-nil, two-nil,' chant campaigners as they outwit massed ranks of security guards

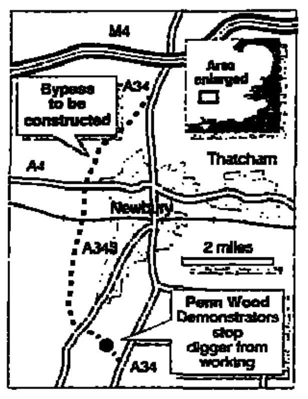
Newbury protesters win again as police halt work on bypass

By Adrian Lee

WORK on the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the second day running yesterday when protesters overcame security guards, throwing themselves under a digger and tearing equipment from contractors' hands. With two days of the £100 million project gone, little more than an hour's work has been completed, with about 50 small trees cleared from the southern tip of the bypass route.

The protests mean taxpayers are footing a bill of at least £20,000 a day for the security operation alone. The 14-week contract for clearance work includes a figure of £500,000 to employ between 300 and 400 private guards. Policing is costing £5,000 a day.

The aborted start was condemned by David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, who said it was extraordinary that demonstrators had again won the day. The 150 guards had marched onto the site, at Great Penn Wood, Hampshire, flanking a mechanical digger. About a dozen protesters in a small camp were brushed aside and hedges and trees were flattened as work appeared to begin in earnest just before 9am.



But the highly organised protesters, using mobile telephones and CB radios to summon reinforcements, surged forward to surround the digger and forced it to stop operating as the guards fought to drive them back, linking arms in a tight circle.

Two protesters managed to get beneath the machine's claws, while others huddled in holes where trees had been uprooted. During the struggles one protester and one security guard suffered leg injuries.

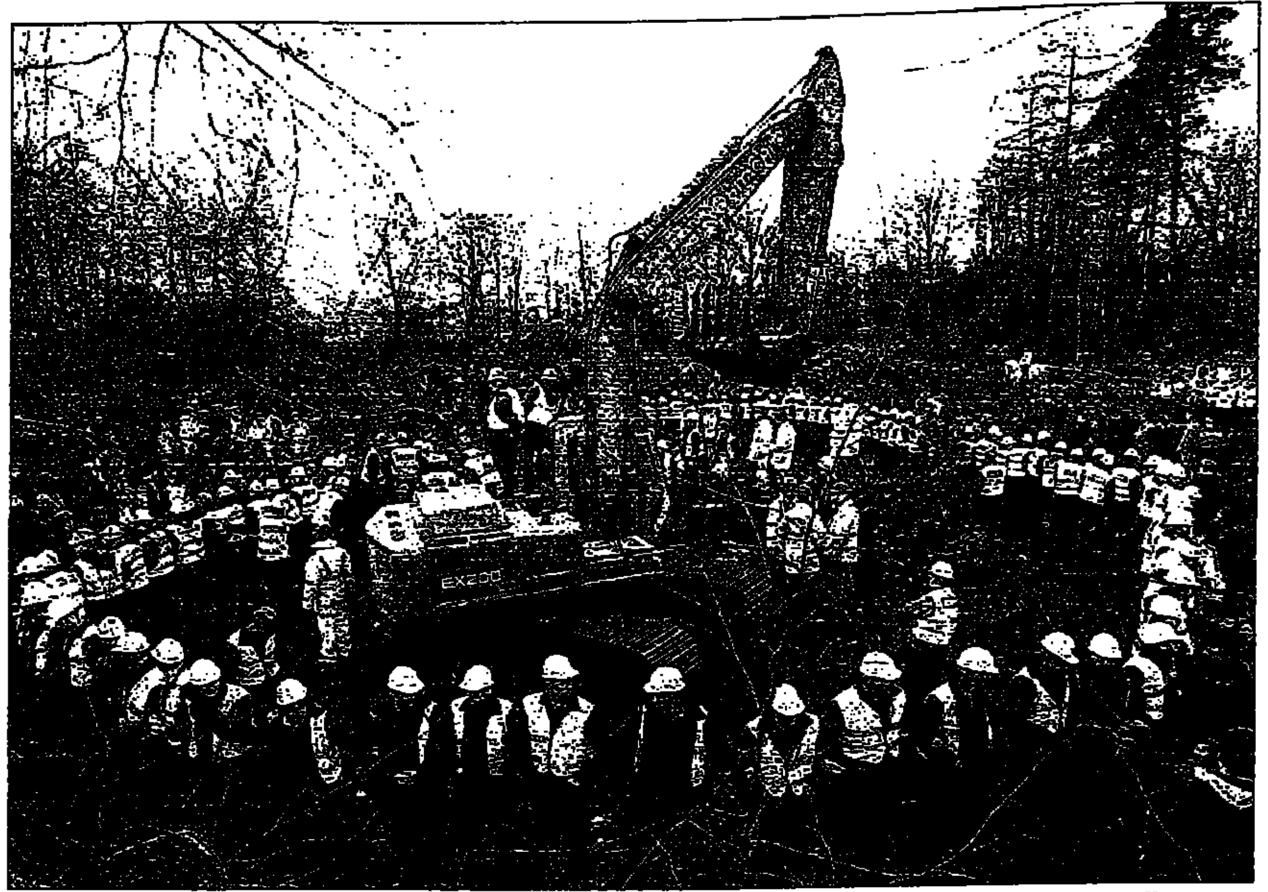
Inspector Frank Connor of Hampshire Constabulary said: "It is not a police job to move these people out, it is a matter for the security guards. The main thing is that nobody gets injured." Mr Connor's announcement that work had finished for the day was greeted by cheers and chants of "two-nil, two-nil".

Susan Millington, a protest co-ordinator of Newbury Friends of the Earth, said: "Whatever they throw at us we obviously we have the intelligence and imagination to outwit them peacefully." Despite yesterday's minor injuries, the conflict was largely good-natured and limited to pushing and shoving.

The Highways Agency said the contractor, which it will not name, could ask for more money if the size of protest was larger than anticipated. It is thought the guards are being paid about £50 a day, including food and accommodation, bringing the daily cost to at least £15,000 at present. Coach and mini-bus hire adds another £750 a day to transport the guards to work sites.

Earlier yesterday campaigners attacked the base of the bus company which takes guards from their living quarters, 14 miles outside Newbury, and forced it to recall its coaches.

JON HINDMARCH



Backs to the wall: security guards formed a human chain in a vain attempt to keep protesters from a digger

Ragtag army devises its tactics in the pub

WITH their unkempt looks the growing band of protesters might appear to be a ragtag army, but they have planned their campaign carefully for six months. Tactics are fixed at regular strategy meetings held round camp fires, in the pubs of Newbury or in the cramped town centre office of Friends of the Earth.

At each one different "cells" with specialist knowledge pass on their expertise; some are "tree defenders", while others, including those behind the successful tripod protest on Monday, are skilled in tried and tested tactics in the battle known as "reclaiming the streets".

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, said: "We have many different cells which work on our own style of tactic. At the moment our main strategy is to take the fight to them as much as possible, as you saw at the coach firm this morning.

"At the heart of the philosophy is 'the simpler the better'. A lot of it goes back to Gandhi and the whole idea of peaceful protest. One of the keys is outsmarting them and coming up with new ideas."

Two of the key members of the strategy group are thought to be a man called Jai and Rebecca Lush. She played down her role: "Any meetings we have are very informal and held on stairs or in the pub. We just bash out ideas. It's imagination and ingenuity."

Dinosaurs die yet another death

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

COLLAPSING stars have joined the list of cancer scares, and the dinosaurs are claimed to have been among the first victims.

A new theory from an American astrophysicist says that a dying star in the Milky Way would send out millions of particles that could cause tissue damage to living things on Earth.

Dr Juan Collar, of the University of South Carolina, has calculated that a star within 20 light years of Earth collapses about every 100 million years. The dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago.

A star's collapse — caused when it runs out of material to burn — generates a huge number of invisible, weightless particles called neutrinos, which spread outwards.

Dr Collar's theory, to be propounded in the journal *Physical Review Letters*, joins about 200 explanations of why the dinosaurs died. The most probable remains the impact of a huge asteroid or comet, altering the climate.

Neutrinos are chargeless, massless particles which usually pass straight through everything they meet without harm. But Dr Collar argues that a blizzard of neutrinos at a certain intensity would affect the nuclei of tissue atoms, causing fatal cancers.

Ministers may lose traditional accessory

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

MINISTERIAL red boxes could become a thing of the past under the Cabinet Office's vision of a paper-free Whitehall, unveiled yesterday.

The Government's "office of the future" was on display at an emerging-technology exhibition in Westminster. The aim is to make the resources of Whitehall available to ministers while they are travelling, at home and on official visits.

Using a fictional scenario of an oil slick off the English coast, the Cabinet Office demonstrated how a minister on the scene could hold conferences with and receive diagrams from his private secretary in Whitehall, and conduct three-way press interviews. Civil servants and ministers would access the new system via voice recognition and finger-print identification.

Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said: "The exotic is becoming commonplace and the fanciful is becoming reality." Not long ago the systems which had been demonstrated "belonged solely in the world of *Star Trek*", he said. Now every minister could expect to be using such technology by 2000.

A Central Information Technology Unit has been set up, reporting to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Gallery celebrates surreal bequest

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

EDINBURGH will have one of the world's best collections of Dadaist and Surrealist works thanks to a bequest to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

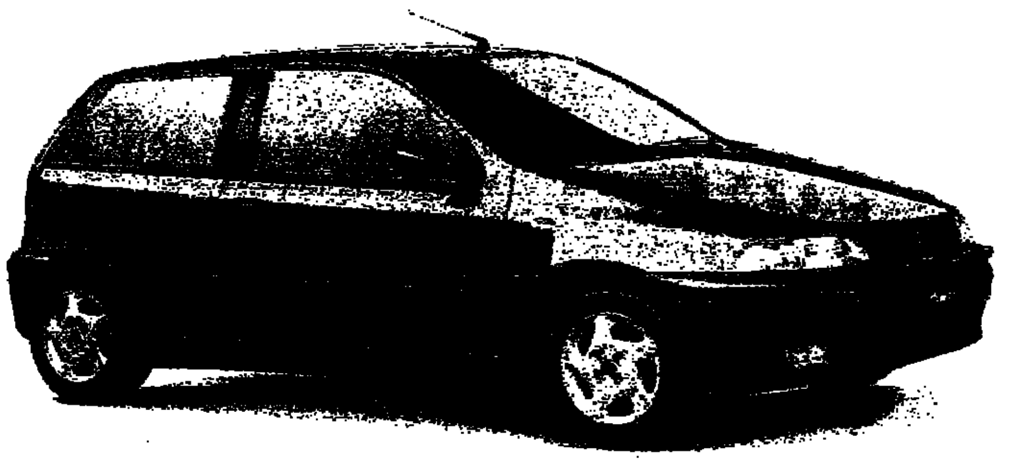
Masters such as Dali, Delvaux, Duchamp, Man Ray, Magritte and Miró are represented in the collection left by Gabrielle Keiller, champion golfer, benefactor and collector of modern art, who died last December aged 87. Manuscripts of the period have also been bequeathed to the gallery. Mrs Keiller also bought Surrealist-influenced works by Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud.

Among some 136 paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings are Bacon's early *Figure Study I*, 1945-46, featuring a tweed overcoat, hat and dying flowers; Magritte's *Magic Mirror*, his 1929 painting that plays with words; and Delvaux's enigmatic *Street of the Tram*, 1938-39, a dreamlike image of two nudes and a tram car in an industrial landscape.

The manuscripts and artists' books include correspondence, largely unpublished, between Dali and André Breton, from 1930 to 1939. They show sharp differences of opinion over Surrealism and Breton's efforts to make Dali conform to Surrealist orthodoxy, according to Richard Calvocoressi, keeper of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

Other letters, dating from 1933-34, reveal Breton's anxiety over Dali's fascination with Hitler and his ambivalent attitude to Lenin. "In one of February 3, 1934, Breton informs Dali that the decision has been taken at a general assembly of Surrealists to exclude him from the group because he has been found guilty of 'counter-revolutionary acts tending to the glorification of Hitlerian Fascism'. The decision was revoked later and friendly relations resumed because Dali defended himself so well."

Mr Calvocoressi said that the Kieller bequest would complement the rich collection of Dada and Surrealist work already at the Scottish gallery — offering the most comprehensive collection of its kind in Britain and one of the finest in the world. "This is unquestionably the most exciting gift since the gallery opened in 1960," he added.



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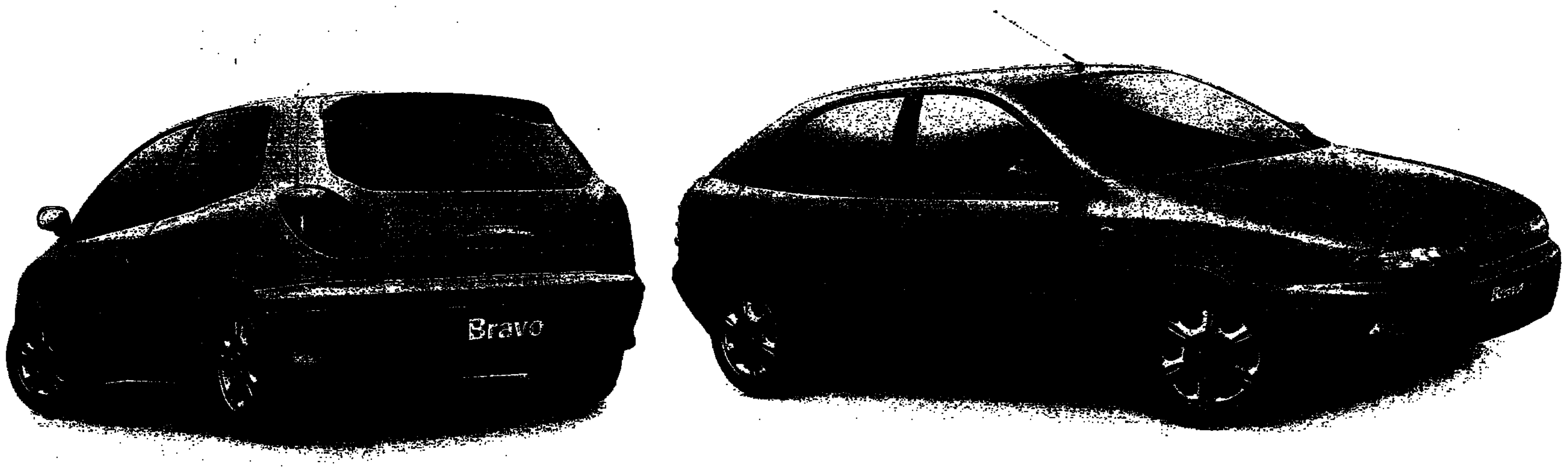

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Senior officers sceptical as ministry orders retreat from the high street

Services forced to seek recruits in Jobcentres

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Millions of Britons answered the call to enlist during the First World War in such institutions as soldiers' rest rooms, but it was not until 1961, after National Service came to an end, that the first recruiting "shops" began to appear in high streets.

The earliest form of recruiting, for the Royal Navy, had to be carried out by press gangs who "persuaded" men to join a ship's crew. Pressing people into service started as early as the 13th century but ceased, albeit unofficially, when improved pay and conditions in the early 1800s encouraged voluntary recruits.

The navy was always short of volunteers and the press gangs, composed of tough petty officers and seamen, scoured seaports for likely recruits. Real sailors hid or fled and, rather than return empty-handed, the gangs sometimes seized people who knew nothing about the sea. Sheriffs and mayors often supplied the press gangs with people by clearing out the prisons. However, after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1815, such forms of compulsory enlistment were no longer required.

MORE than 130 high-street recruiting offices are to close after the Ministry of Defence decided to advertise Armed Forces vacancies in 1,100 Jobcentres. The new route into the Royal Navy, Army or RAF, initially proposed to save money, is now seen as a way of enticing more young people to enlist.

The Services cut manpower by 30 per cent at the end of the Cold War, and potential recruits still appear to believe recruiting has stopped. However, many sections, especially the infantry and the Parachute Regiment, are suffering serious shortages.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, who with Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, announced the new move, said yesterday that the employment service would be able to "reach those who may not have considered the job opportunities that the forces can offer". She added: "In particular people may not be aware of the skilled jobs available such as mechanics, drivers, cartographers, cooks and many more."

Some senior military figures, however, are sceptical about the Jobcentre scheme meeting recruitment needs and are seeking to save some of the military recruitment offices earmarked for closure.

The present 215 traditional service offices are to be reduced to 82 — 39 tri-service careers offices and 43 others, most of which will be for Army recruiting. These offices will be used mainly for the second phase of recruiting, interviewing young men and women sent by the Jobcentres.

The closure of 133 recruiting offices would not lead to more redundancies, the MoD said. Staff who work at the centres are posted on a temporary basis and will be redeployed to other jobs. Mr Soames was unable to say how much money would be saved by the closures, but it is expected to be several million pounds.

He said he was hopeful that if the Northern Ireland peace initiative continued successfully, servicemen and women would be able to walk around in public in their uniforms, a practice banned for the past 25 years. He believed this would help to raise the profile of the Services and encourage recruitment.

Recruiting offices used to be a major target for the IRA and regular surveillance was carried out by police anti-terrorist units. In 1990 a bomb went off at an Army recruiting office in Derby and in 1992 a soldier who worked at the centre was shot in the head.

The decision to use Jobcentres to advertise vacancies, which currently stand at 17,500, followed a pilot scheme at 99 Jobcentres in six locations, including Edinburgh, Gloucester, Norwich and Swansea. In six months there were 321 enlistments and 67 applications are still being processed.

The Army will be undermanned by around 2,000 soldiers this year, mainly in the infantry, Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps. Some 400 Gurkhas due to be made redundant have been reprieved to help to meet the dramatic shortfall in recruits, and a £1,400 cash bonus is now offered to soldiers to persuade them to stay on for three years.

Commanding officers of battalions are to be given an extra £1.5 million to be used specifically for recruiting in their local areas.

Commodore Ian Somervaille, director of naval recruiting, said the Royal Navy wanted to take on just over 5,000 personnel in the next financial year, including 1,200 for the Royal Marines.

Mr Soames insisted that the manpower cuts in the Services had not gone too far but stressed the need to carry on recruiting. "Who would have thought a year ago that we would be sending 13,000 troops to Bosnia?"

He dismissed as "fatuous nonsense" claims by Labour that the shortfall implied a failure in the recruiting system. He said the Services, like everyone else, were operating in an "extremely competitive job market". With the Jobcentres' help it would now be possible to reach a broader range of people. He said he hoped more from the ethnic communities would be attracted to a career in the forces.

Mr Soames said that the cuts in manpower had largely affected older personnel and there was always a need to recruit young people. He added: "From today young men and women will be able to walk into any of the 1,100 Jobcentres and see the many skilled jobs that are available in the three Services.

"I hope that young people who had not previously considered a career in the armed forces will be attracted by the wide variety of jobs on offer."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Pilot-scheme recruits James Stallabrass, left, Kerry Duckenfield and Scott Robertson

Footballer fined for airport bag theft

The Arsenal footballer David Hillier was fined £750 yesterday after he admitted stealing a bag at Gatwick. The midfielder's solicitor said the theft was an act of stupidity which had destroyed Hillier's soccer form. He was now on the transfer list.

Magistrates at Crawley, West Sussex, were told that Hillier, 26, stole the bag with his friends Wayne Burnett, 24, a Bolton Wanderers player, and Adam Old, 31, a computer consultant. The three men, from London, were each fined £750 and ordered to pay £970 compensation to the bag's owner, a Danish businessman.

Port picketed

More than 100 sacked Liverpool dockers picketed the port of Sheerness, where workers were recruited to replace them. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, which also runs the Kent port, dismissed 500 dockers in September after they refused to cross picket lines of a separate dispute.

Smuggler escapes

A Belgian drug smuggler was on the run yesterday from Downview Prison in Banstead, Surrey. Jaques Maezele, 51, serving 4½ years, was reported missing on Tuesday night. Police believe he may have been driven away in a Vauxhall Cavalier seen earlier in the prison car park.

Class had to strip

The headmaster of a school where children had to strip as a teacher searched for a stolen pen has apologised to parents. Twenty 12 and 13-year-olds undressed to their underwear at the Cardinal Wiseman Roman Catholic School in Potter's Green, Coventry.

Turned in

A car that sped away from a policeman in Torquay was chased by a patrol car to Newton Abbot — where it took a wrong turn into a police station car park. Two youths will appear in court tomorrow charged with aggravated vehicle-taking and burglary.

CPS man jailed

Andrew Woodfine, 26, a legal administrator for the Crown Prosecution Service in Durham, was jailed for 12 months by Durham Crown Court for supplying Ecstasy and possessing amphetamines. He sold two Ecstasy tablets to a plain-clothes detective at a rave.

Boat fire deaths

A mother and her two children who died as fire swept through their riverboat on the Oxford Canal at Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, on Tuesday had just been told they were to move to a council house. Sarah Lowe, 30, Ben, 6, and Louise, 3, were asleep when the fire started.

War pensions

Staff are being recruited to ensure that all war widows entitled to a pension receive it by April. The 1995 Pension Act restores the £143-a-week pension to war widows whose subsequent marriage has ended. However, the payment may reduce benefits received.

East eats West

Civic leaders from Stupini, near Moscow, met their British counterparts in Slough, Berkshire, home of Mars bars in the UK, to celebrate the opening of the confectioner's first factory in Russia. The two parties exchanged somewhat predictable gifts: Mars bars.

Bad news for Daleks as the doctor returns

By A Staff Reporter

DOCTOR WHO is to be resurrected to the small screen with Paul McGann as the latest incarnation of the Time Lord. The 36-year-old star of *The Monocled Mutineer* saw off Sting, Simon Callow and Alan Rickman to become the eighth incumbent of the role since 1963.

He will star in a two-hour film to be made for television, produced jointly by BBC Worldwide and Universal Television in America. If the film proves popular there are plans for six more.

Doctor Who was last seen on television in 1989, but ratings slumped to four million viewers and the series was axed. The new production has a £5 million budget and will be broadcast in the United States and Britain later this year.

McGann said yesterday: "I loved *Doctor Who* as a kid — William Hartnell used to terrify me. My favourite was the Yeti, but the Daleks never did it for me — they couldn't run upstairs."

One fan of the series welcomed the news. Alexandra Loosely-Saul, owner of a Dr Who shop in East Ham, east London, said: "I am absolutely delighted. Paul McGann has just the right silent, mysterious quality that Doctor Who needs. There is no way it will seem outdated. All it needs is good writers, good actors and new technology, and now we've got all that. I can't wait."

Doctor Who was first screened on November 23, 1963, with William Hartnell in the title role. He was followed by Patrick Troughton (1966-1970), Jon Pertwee (1970-1974), Tom Baker (1974-1982), Peter Davison (1982-1984), Colin Baker (1984-1987) and Sylvester McCoy (1987-1989).

☐ Britain's last remaining police box — the model for Doctor Who's time-travelling Tardis — is to be restored. It was one of scores found in the capital until 1969, when they were scrapped by the Metropolitan Police. The surviving example is at Hendon Police Training College.

McGann: preferred Yetis to Daleks

Clarke's staff fails to pay bills on time

SMALL businesses yesterday called for Kenneth Clarke to be put on a blacklist after government figures showed that more than a quarter of the Treasury's bills are paid late.

Last year the Chancellor's department failed to settle 28 per cent of its bills within 30 days or when required by contracts, the worst figure for any government department.

The Federation of Small Businesses said: "We have long called for a blacklist of large companies who do not pay up on time and the Chancellor and the Treasury should go on this list." Mr Clarke has announced several schemes to persuade businesses to settle bills promptly.

Labour will ask for an explanation in the Commons this afternoon. The Treasury blamed temporary staff problems, adding: "We try to pay a lot of our bills in ten days."

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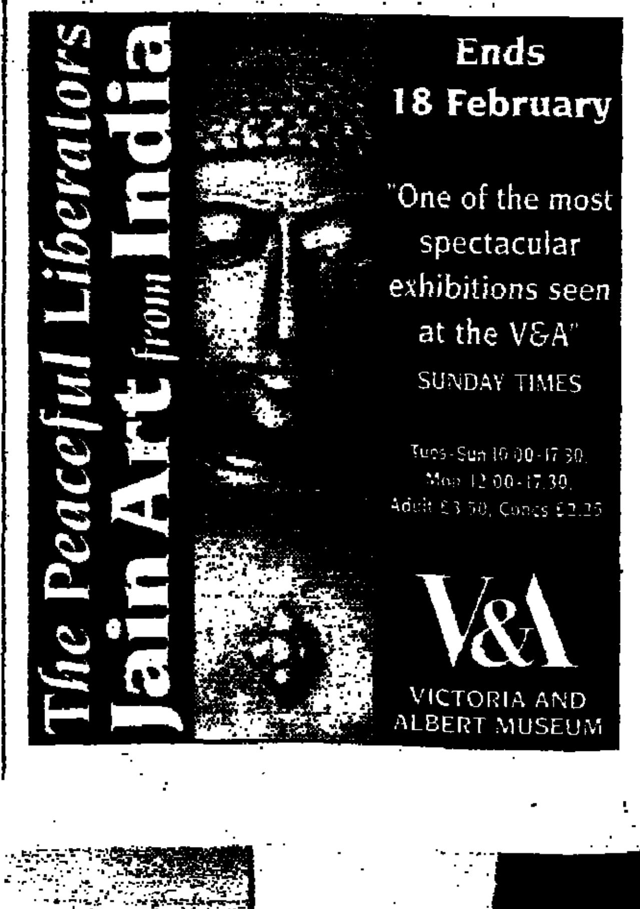
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Dorrell denies £1bn efficiency drive is rationing

Hospitals told to reduce 'unnecessary' Caesareans

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A DRIVE to reduce unnecessary Caesarean sections was launched by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday as part of a campaign to save £1 billion being wasted on ineffective NHS treatments.

Almost 100,000 women undergo Caesareans each year and the rate has more than doubled in the past 20 years. In some hospitals, more than 20 per cent of women have the operation, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in others. Mr Dorrell said the rates in some hospitals were "surprisingly high" and should be questioned.

Launching the document *Promoting Clinical Effectiveness*, Mr Dorrell said it was vital for doctors and health authorities to keep pace with the rapidly changing clinical scene. More than 30,000 medical journals are published around the world and it is impossible for most doctors to keep track of the latest advances. Under the initiative, they are to be provided with easily accessible information on effective treatments and may be required to justify clinical judgments that differ from the norm. Authorities will be required to show that they are switching funds from ineffective treatments to those of proven value.

Mr Dorrell cited hospitals with high Caesarean rates as an example that doctors and managers should be examining. "It doesn't mean the clinicians are wrong but it does mean that they have to explain why they are out of line."

Latest figures on Caesareans, collected by the National Childbirth Trust, show a national rate of 15.3 per cent of births in 1993-94, the highest ever. Rates varied between hospitals from under 10 per cent at Bedford and Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; to more than 20 per cent at Buchanan Hospital, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex; Leighton Hospital, Crewe, Cheshire; and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Rates were also above 20 per cent at Bradford Royal Infirmary, Hammersmith, and Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea hospitals, London, Liverpool Maternity Hospital and St David's Hospital, Bangor, Gwynedd. Large hospitals that deal with more complex cases would expect to have higher Caesarean rates.

Many hospitals routinely perform Caesareans on women who have previously had one, although there is no evidence that it improves the outcome. Women complain that they are being subjected to an unnecessary operation with increased risks at a critical point in their lives.

The National Childbirth Trust says that increased medical intervention in labour, such as foetal monitoring, and fear of litigation is driving the trend to more Caesareans. Mary Newburn, head of policy research, said: "Fear of litigation should not be driving maternity care. Caesarean birth is a major operation from which it takes six weeks to recover, at a very important time for the whole family — getting to know and care for a new baby."

Promoting Clinical Effectiveness, which is backed by the Royal Medical Colleges, says that the treatment provided by doctors "is still insufficiently responsive to the changing evidence of best practice". Mr Dorrell denied that the aim was to ration treatments, but was to obtain the best quality of care at the best value. "We are using science to address questions of value, not to reduce costs," he said.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, dismissed Mr Dorrell's campaign for clinical effectiveness as a "smokescreen for rationing". "It is nothing but a drive to cut costs," she said.

JULIAN HERBERT

Debbie Chippington Derrick and her son Maxwell, the only one of her four children not born by Caesarean

'Evidence on natural births being ignored'

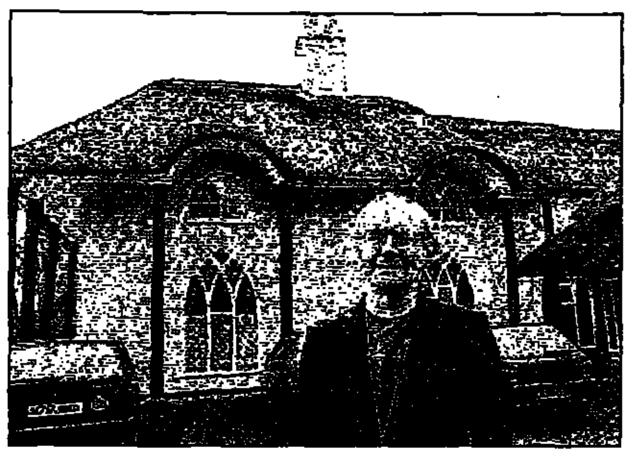
AFTER her third Caesarean section, Debbie Chippington Derrick decided the only way to ensure that her fourth pregnancy would end in a natural birth was to pay for it. She spent £2,500 hiring an independent midwife and had her son, Maxwell, at home.

"It was a straightforward eight-hour labour. I had no pain relief, no stitches, no intervention of any kind. Had I been under the NHS I would have been automatically booked for a Caesarean. As soon as you have had two, the attitude of the obstetricians changes."

Mrs Chippington Derrick, 36, of Camberley, Surrey, said the *Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, produced by the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford, showed the chances of a natural birth did not depend on the reasons for the first Caesarean.

She said her first Caesarean was carried out after a series of interventions, such as pain relief which left her drowsy and a foetal heart monitor, had left her unable to cope. Her second Caesarean, in a different hospital, was performed when she was ten days overdue, after attempts to induce her over eight days had failed. In her first pregnancy she had been three weeks late.

"That is what women encounter all the time. If you happen to be in a different hospital, a different policy will be followed. Evidence on effectiveness is being ignored."



Dr Stevenson outside his 200-year-old thatched home

Hard-up Church storms another bishop's castle

By Russell Jenkins and Veema Shah

THE Bishop of Worcester is expected to be the next senior Anglican cleric to face "eviction" from his historic home, the Church Commissioners confirmed yesterday. Hartlebury Castle, where the Right Rev Philip Goodrich lives, could fetch £750,000.

The new Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr Kenneth Stevenson, has already been asked to leave his 200-year-old thatched residence, Bishopswood, in Fareham, in two years' time and to move his family into a £300,000 six-bedroom Victorian villa. There is a question mark over the future of 14 other bishops' homes under a Church of England seven-year review.

Dr Stevenson's chaplain, Canon Howard Baker, said yesterday of the rehousing plan: "He was unhappy initially, but the decision here was to move into not only a smaller house but one which will suit the needs of a bishop in the 21st century."

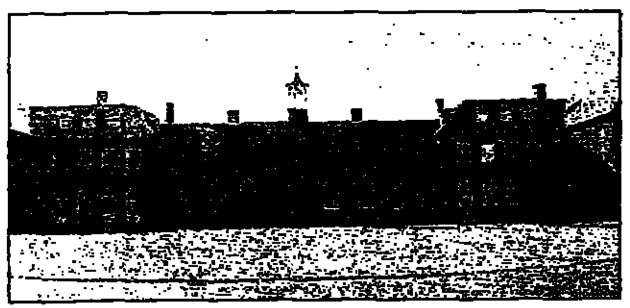
Dr Stevenson, who was enthroned shortly before Christmas, said: "We are looking forward to moving into a better house. The thatched roof is the largest in the south of England and needs to be replaced in ten years and we cannot get a grant for that."

Behind the impressive façades of episcopal castles, palaces and residences, their occupants are struggling to pay heating bills. Mary Loudon, who interviewed clergy for her book *Revelations*, said: "Never go and stay with a bishop. It's freezing."

Bishops are paid £24,590 a year, plus a car and an allowance to pay a small staff for their office and house. Under church guidelines, their residences should have a dining room for ten to 12 guests, a commensurate kitchen, drawing room, study, office, chapel, sitting room and six bedrooms.

Bishops' homes still under review include those at Blackburn, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, Norwich, Ripon, the Isle of Man, Southwell and Truro.

Miss Loudon believes the Church should sell all clergy homes, pay the occupants enough to buy their own and hire offices and meeting halls. This would help to solve financial difficulties and make clergy face the housing problems their parishioners have, she says.



Worcester's Hartlebury Castle may be sold for £750,000

Medieval marvels vie with Gothic elegance

By Rachel Kelly, property correspondent

THE Church of England owns three castles and five palaces among its 44 bishops' homes, in addition to Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

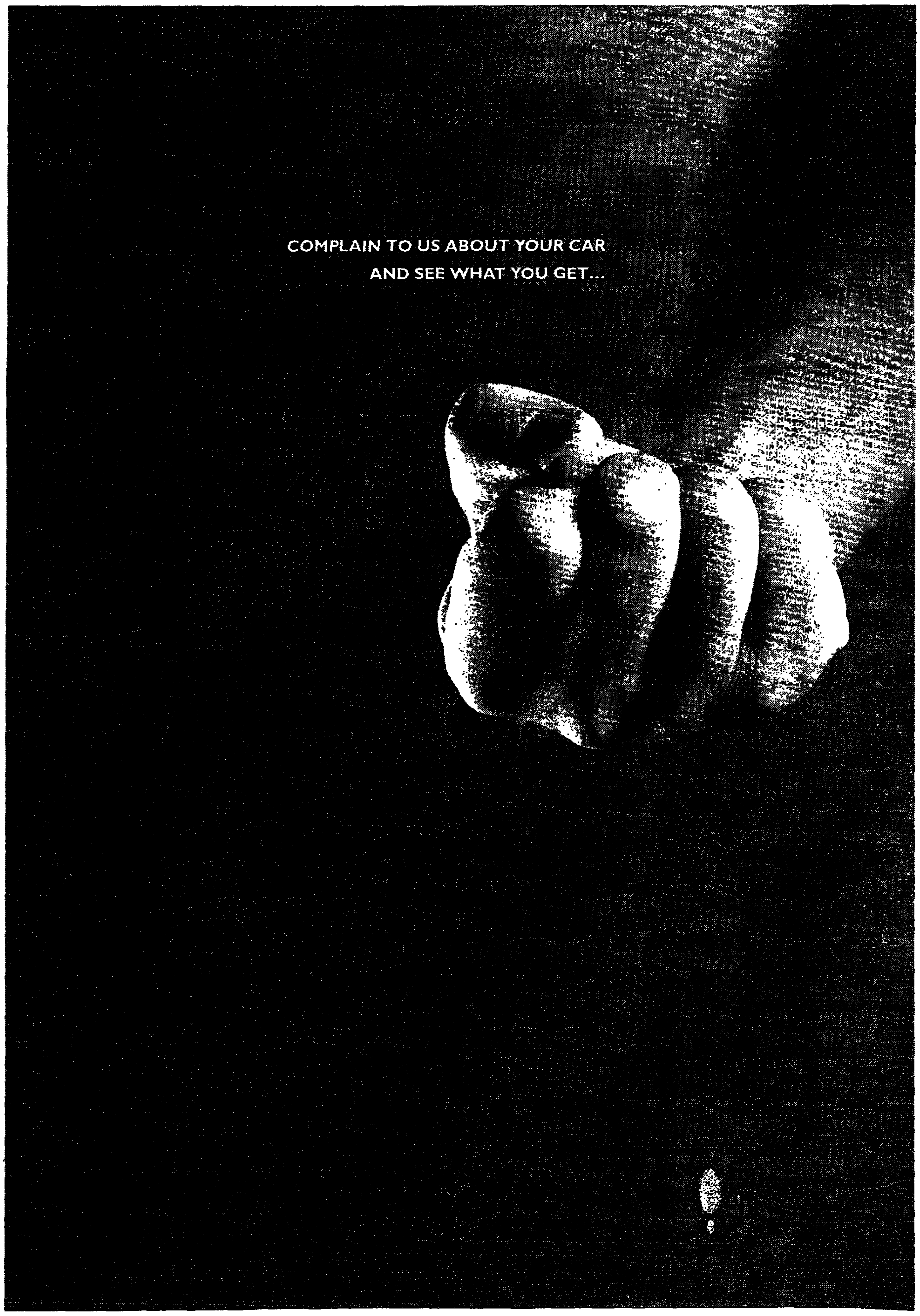
A claim to be the most elegant could be made by Auckland Castle, home of the new Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, which has survived the church's review.

Its Gothic gateway is topped by a turreted clock and weather vane. The house has state rooms with high ceilings, some covered in coats of arms, and eight bedrooms.

The grandest may be Peterborough Palace, built partly in the 11th century on a far bigger scale. It has seven lavatories and ballroom-sized bedrooms. The hall can seat 100 for lunch and the sitting room takes 50.

The future Bishop of Peterborough — the appointment is vacant — will live in part of the palace but the commissioners are looking at ways to make the building pay its way.

Bishopsthorpe, home of the Archbishop of York, stands in 19 acres of gardens. Originally a manor house, it was later enlarged and rebuilt. Wolvesey Palace stands on the site where the bishops of Winchester have had their homes since the 12th century.



Local Tories blame party's high command for failing to expose black businessman's lies

Candidate's imaginative CV was never checked

By Andrew Pierce and Kate Alderson

CONSERVATIVE Central Office was blamed last night for the debacle over a black parliamentary candidate who will be deselected next week for lying about his past to local party officials.

Hugh Neil, 32, will be dropped as candidate for the marginal seat of Hyndburn in Lancashire because of irregularities in the curriculum vitae that he submitted to the selection committee. But a straightforward check on his background would have shown that only four years before he had been deselected as candidate for Wallsend after the collapse of his estate agency business.

Closer scrutiny of Mr Neil's curriculum vitae has revealed a host of bogus claims about his academic, political and busines career. The false claims include his chairmanship of "Britain's 19th largest building society", the Kenton and Middlesex, which has never traded, and a doctorate in business administration at Manchester business school. Mr Neil, a bachelor, also falsely claimed to have been an adviser to the late Lord Joseph, Margaret Thatcher's mentor.

The party high command failed to act because Mr Neil was one of only a handful of black candidates. A Central Office official said: "Alarm bells should have rung after he was deselected. He survived the cull of the candidates list after the election because he was black. We were sensitive because of the row over John Taylor, the defeated black candidate in Cheltenham." Mr Taylor narrowly lost the Tory seat in 1992 after being described as a "nigger" by constituency members.

Despite the bitterness left by Mr Neil's abrupt departure from Wallsend, only months before the 1992 general election, Central Office failed to investigate him and his name remained on its approved list of candidates.

In series of telephone calls yesterday, *The Times* established that Mr Neil had financed his estate agency, Witton Flint, with a £17,000 business development loan from Brent Council. It was awarded in 1986, when the Tories were in power. They had gained control of the council in 1983 when Mr Neil's mother, Ambrozine, a Labour councillor, defected to the Tories. He was dropped as a Tory candidate in a council by-election in 1988 when he defaulted on his loan. In 1990 Brent Council, again under Tory control, wrote off the loan when the estate agency went into liquidation.

Lord Joseph: Mr Neil falsely claimed to have been one of the Cabinet minister's advisers

It was also established that, contrary to his CV, Mr Neil had never had any connection with Harvard University. Claims that he had worked for the Polish government were discounted by the Polish embassy in London.

Although he claimed membership of the Bow Group, the Foreign Affairs Forum, and the Centre for Policy Studies, all three denied that he had ever been a member. The Chartered Institute of Marketing suspended his membership because of unpaid fees. He ceased to be a member of the Institute of Directors in June 1991 because of his "failure to pay amounts owing to the institute".

Mr Neil said last night: "You are part of a bourgeoise plot. I am the victim of institutionalised racism in the media and Tory party."

A local party official said last night: "He should have been permanently moved by Central Office years ago. Attempts to discover why Mr Neil was allowed to move from constituency to constituency have met with silence."

In the predominantly white working-class constituency, which includes Accrington, he had impressed party members with his academic air and intelligent conversation about world affairs. Stan Horne, deputy chairman of Hyndburn Tories, said: "I thought he was an outstanding candidate. I told the local paper his political capability was unbounded. He was an impressive speaker. Not full of waffle. In the words of a famous song, he was young, gifted and black."

However, party officials began to be troubled by doubts about him. He could never be contacted at his office at Manchester Business School. It transpired that he did not have one. At the party conference in Blackpool last year, they were advised by officials from other local parties to drop him.

In November Mr Horne discovered that Mr Neil's membership of the party had lapsed in 1990 when he left the City of London and Westminster South Conservatives. He did not rejoin until the month of his selection for Hyndburn.

Mr Neil had developed a reputation as a Walter Mitty character who convinced himself that everything he said was true. He told colleagues at Hyndburn that he had had a BMW and a Toyota sports car. They only ever saw him driving a battered Montego. In December a motion of no confidence in him was passed by 53 votes to 16 and he was urged to resign.

Mr Horne said last night: "He was black when we selected him. The charges of racism against our association are absolute rubbish. His deselection comes down to his business dealings. I am sad this whole episode has occurred. It is not enough to be seen to be above reproach as a candidate. You have to be above reproach."

Mr Neil is from a family of six children. His parents, both now dead, moved to London from the West Indies 35 years ago. In a interview with the *Accrington Observer* he described General Colin Powell and Baroness Thatcher as his heroes. He said the best advice he had received was from Lady Thatcher: "Always be true to your ability and destiny." Lady Thatcher's office said they had never heard of Mr Neil.

He claimed to have been a schoolfriend of the sprinter Linford Christie and said that he expected to be MP for Hyndburn. Asked what his epitaph would be, he replied: "Hugh Neil — a man of the people, for the people."

HUGH NEIL: CURRICULUM VITAE

(False statements in bold type)

Occupation:	**International management consultant**
Education:	**Doctor of Business Administration (DBA): Manchester** Business School, Harvard Business School **Master of Business Administration (MBA): University of Leicester** **Bachelor of Arts: BA (Hons) Social Sciences:** University of Westminster **The Chartered Institute of Marketing (DipM MCIM)**
Political:	**Political and management consultant to the Polish government (1993-94)** **Member of environment task force (1990)** **City of London and Westminster South Conservative Association (1989-90)** **Adviser to The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph (the late Lord Joseph), Secretary of State for Education and Science (1986-87)** **Approved parliamentary candidate since 1986** **Contested Queens Park ward in local council elections (1986)** **Ward chairman for Brent East Conservative Association (1986-89)** **Brent East Conservative Association Finance and General Purposes Committee (1986-89)** **Member of the board of governors at Kilburn Polytechnic (1984)** **Academic board governor for Kilburn Polytechnic (1984)** **Student Union president for Kilburn Polytechnic (1984)** Experience in four general elections and council elections **Member of Bow Group, Foreign Affairs Forum, Centre for Policy Studies and Institute of Directors**
Interests:	The economy, education and foreign affairs

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The CV that helped to persuade Hyndburn Tories to select Hugh Neil as their parliamentary candidate

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Thatcher's role as prophet is true to tradition

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Margaret Thatcher is not the first former Prime Minister to cause waves for a successor. Exactly 100 years ago this September, Gladstone descended on Liverpool like a prophet from the hills, according to his latest biographer, Roy Jenkins, and delivered a powerful blast of protest over Turkish atrocities in Armenia. It caused quite a stir, not least because of the parallels with his campaign over the slaughter of Christians in Bulgaria 20 years earlier. But in autumn 1896 the GOM was nearly 87 and it was his last hurrah. Still, it was enough to precipitate the resignation of Rosebery as Liberal leader 12 days later. He complained that the Gladstone speech was "the final straw on his back". John Major is much more resolute than the tiresome and resignation-prone Rosebery, who was a better writer than a politician.

Baroness Thatcher is not alone among former party leaders in still being able to command headlines. Former Prime Ministers have behaved in very different ways. Several — Salisbury, Campbell-Bannerman, Bonar Law, Macdonald and Neville Chamberlain — have died soon afterwards, in some cases having resigned because of fatal illness. Eden was in mixed health for the 20 years he survived, but he had anyway been largely discredited by the Suez crisis. Baldwin's high reputation on retirement was soon undermined by the collapse of appeasement and he had a lonely last few years. Churchill and Wilson lived for 10 and 19 years respectively after leaving Downing Street but for most of the time were senile, in Wilson's sad case prematurely so.

Only a few of the long-time survivors avoided controversy altogether. Attlee lived over a decade after giving up the Labour leadership and, as might be expected for such a stickler to the proprieties, did not interfere with his successors. Macmillan contented himself with his memoirs for more than a decade before enjoying the limelight in his last few ennobled years as a nostalgic critic of Thatcherism. Balfour and Home were unusual in both later returning to high office and were props rather than threats to their successors.

Those who have lost office against their will have caused the most trouble. There have usually been regrets and recriminations. Rosebery was a temperamental complainer but was too ineffective to pose any real problems during his remaining three decades. Asquith and Lloyd George battled over the declining and divided Liberal Party for several years, and the latter remained both an actual and a potential threat to those in power for most of the 1920s and 1930s. Sir Edward Heath was never reconciled to the Thatcher succession.

Lady Thatcher has tried to behave with more restraint but she is too open and candid to disguise her disappointment with her successor. Mr Major has had to endure much from her since 1990, in memoirs, interviews and speeches (however supportive in intention, as tonight's speech will be presented), as well as rumours of critical private remarks. But he has now steeled himself to her interventions, however irritated he may still be by the stir she can still occasionally cause in the media and among Tory supporters in the country — though most MPs now pay little attention to her views.

What Lady Thatcher had in common with Gladstone was the ability to make the weather, in Churchill's vivid phrase about Joseph Chamberlain. So in retirement, both could still draw big audiences and press attention. But Lady Thatcher is now more of a symbol than a force. She will be applauded tonight for what she did rather than what she can do, for touching the hearts of her followers rather than as a potential leader of a crusade. Like Gladstone, she is now a prophet, one who descends from Concorde rather than the hills.

Peter Riddell

New role for MI5 backed

PLANS to the expand the role of MI5 to include supporting the police in the fight against organised crime won cross-party support in the Commons last night.

Opening the second reading debate of the Security Service Bill, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the Government should use every resource available to combat criminal gangs, drug traffickers and racketeers.

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, said Labour welcomed the Bill in principle but had reservations about how accountable MI5 would be to Parliament in its new role.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates on the regeneration of coalfield communities and the Government's waste disposal strategy. At 2.30pm, Foreign Office questions were followed by a debate on the Security Service Bill, second reading. In the Lords: debates on non-conventional medical treatment; violence in penal institutions for teenagers; the Restaurants (Service and Cover Charges) Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister. Debate on Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, remaining stages. In the Lords: debates on the Family Law Bill, committee stage, and the sale of the Transport Research Laboratory.

هكذا من الأصل

Chechen rebel leader vows bloodshed will continue until Kremlin soldiers leave

Russian troops surround hostage-takers at border

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

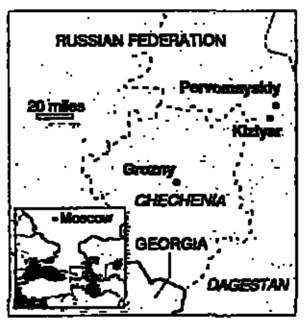
The convoy of buses heads for the Chechen border

RUSSIAN troops ringed a convoy of buses carrying Chechen gunmen and dozens of captives on the border with Chechenia yesterday on the second day of a hostage seizure, which has thrown the Government into crisis.

Earlier, the gunmen freed thousands of hostages they had held overnight in Kizlyar hospital in Dagestan. The incident appeared to be heading for a peaceful conclusion until the convoy's exit was halted by a bridge blown up by the Russian Army at the village of Pervomayskiy and a new round of negotiations began. The fighters threatened to start shooting hostages if they were not allowed across.

According to a correspondent outside the village, helicopter gunships dropped flares, but there appeared to be no sign of an attack to free the captives. An Interior Ministry colonel from Dagestan, Abubakar Mogamedov, said: "They have blockaded Pervomayskiy and have taken more hostages there." He did not say how many had been seized.

In overnight negotiations, officials from the Dagestan administration struck a deal with the fighters similar to the one that was forged during the almost identical hostage crisis in the town of Budennovsk seven months ago. More than 2,000 captives were freed in return for the gunmen's safe passage after at least 13 civilians and seven policemen died in 24 hours of violence. The Chechens, smiling, wearing Islamic headbands and trailing green, white and red Chechen flags from the bus windows, took about 160 hostages from Kizlyar, including volunteers from local government and the hospital, as well as 30 women and 15 children. One women in a headscarf and spectacles was shown on television sitting nervously next to a fighter with a rocket launcher between his knees.



President Yeltsin, who has been humiliated by the second mass hostage-taking in seven months, told reporters that the decision to let the gunmen leave had been "tactically correct". He held more talks with his security ministers, whom he lambasted for incompetence. He said that he was now considering several options.

"If they release the hostages there will be one turn of events. If they don't release them another scenario will unfold," he said at an introductions ceremony for Yevgeni Primakov, the new Foreign Minister. Mr Yeltsin later left for Paris to attend François Mitterrand's memorial service.

The release of most of the hostages eased the pressure on the Kremlin, which may be able to mount a military operation against the hostage-takers and try to save some face. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister who negotiated the end to the Budennovsk siege, said yesterday that "banditry and all who take part in it will be punished".

But the political damage for the Yeltsin adminstration is considerable. A prominent Communist member of parliament, Viktor Ilyukhin, who is chairman of the security committee, has called on the Government to resign.

Even if the drama ends successfully, the Government faces a security situation in which Chechen rebels have proved that they can strike at targets inside Russia at will. "Any peaceful town is defenceless against 100 armed terrorists," said Aleksandr Golts, a commentator for the military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

A former aide to the rebel Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, said that the Chechen forces had several "diversionary detachments" consisting of about 100 fighters, which were ready to carry out raids outside Chechenia. "This is only the beginning," he said.

General Dudayev told reporters in the Chechen hills that there could be "more large-scale incidents". He said that until Russia pulled its troops out of Chechenia, "the bloodshed will not end".

Ancient enemies, page 18

A Kizlyar man weeps for his dead grandson yesterday as he passes the hospital that was commandeered by gunmen

Patients tell of 24-hour terror

From Philippa Fletcher in Kizlyar

NURSES and volunteers carried patients moaning in fear and pain out of Kizlyar's hospital yesterday after Chechen gunmen abandoned it, leaving the body of a murdered policeman untouched on an upper floor.

Men carrying patients in iron beds jostled with Russian police carrying out mines laid by the gunmen on the lower floors of the grey four-storey building.

Torn sheets fluttered from broken windows and spent cartridges were scattered around on the road outside the hospital. Hot-water pipes punctured in 24 hours of gunfire spat water and steam into the chilly air.

The Chechen fighters, who had threatened to kill their captives unless Russia withdrew troops from their neighbouring separatist region, left unexpectedly in a convoy of buses early yesterday, accompanied by more than 160 hostages. The wounded were among those left behind.

Alla Pradikova, injured when Chechens forced their way into her flat, lay in the hospital entrance, her head peeping out from under an orange blanket. She said that she was at home when the rebels started banging on her door. "We asked them to let us get dressed, but they broke the door down and started shooting," she said.

Other victims still lay in the hospital, where mattresses have been stuffed into broken windows to stop the draught, and blood-soaked rags lie on the floor.

"The hospital was full, there were at least 3,000 people. Then they went round town and collected more," Muhammad Maladzhiyev, duty doctor in the surgery area, said. "People in each department had been wounded in the hand or the foot. They killed a policeman and two old women did not survive the strain."

Shots rang out outside the hospital as the doctor spoke, but it was unclear where the shooting came from. Patients said Russian special forces had shot at the hospital with guns and shells. Dr Maladzhiyev's assistant said her son had had to go with the rebels. "I do not know where he is," she said. "Everything has gone from our house."

Kurban Aliyev, who had been receiving treatment in the hospital, said he did not hold a grudge against the rebels. "The Chechens want freedom," he said. "They did not do anything to the civilians. The Russians started shooting and they shot back. They were shooting day and night." *(Reuter)*

New spy chief chosen in Yeltsin shake-up

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT YELTSIN appointed a new Foreign Intelligence Service head yesterday to succeed Yevgeni Primakov, now Foreign Minister, and gave a warning of more government changes to come.

Colonel-General Vyacheslav Trubnikov, 51, a career intelligence officer, has served as Mr Primakov's first deputy since the former Soviet KGB split into several agencies shortly before the Soviet collapse in 1991.

"I have looked closely at him and realised he was a skilled professional, respected by intelligence operatives," Mr Yeltsin said.

Born into a worker's family in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, General Trubnikov joined the KGB in 1967 on graduation from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Relations. Like his chief, Mr Primakov, the general is an expert in Eastern affairs and spent several years in Asia. The Soviet Government awarded him many decorations, including two Red Star medals.

Tass news agency said he spends his leisure time reading, listening to music and watching films and supports Spartak Moscow.

Mr Yeltsin also ousted the Transport Minister, Vitaly Yefimov, criticised in the press over domestic civil aviation's safety record, and formally dismissed two ministers — Nikolai Travkin and Sergei Belyayev — who have left to take up seats in parliament's lower house.

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Defeated Walesa to work on image in £6,000-a-year shipyard job

Walesa, the "Great Electrician", plies his trade at the Gdansk shipyard in 1989

By Roger Boyes

LECH WALESA, who was once dubbed the Great Electrician, kept up his old skills by fixing televisions and changing plugs during his five years in the presidential palace.

Now, still smarting from his defeat in the presidential elections, the former Solidarity hero says he plans to return to the Gdansk shipyards to work and restore his credentials as a rugged, worker-politician.

Mr Walesa claims he has no choice: he needs a job. As a former head of state, he is not entitled to a pension, only to a team of bodyguards who will accompany him to the 6.30 morning shift.

His actual wealth is a mystery. During the 1980s he picked up many valuable human rights awards, including the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, a substantial advance on his two volumes of autobiography, and a controversial $1 million (£640,000) film option on his life story from Warner Brothers.

Some of the cash was given to good causes and some has been spent. More than half the film fee went towards buying a family house in Gdansk and flats for two of his wayward sons. The Polish taxman insists that he has not paid his due and most Poles reckon that he is still a wealthy man.

The truth is that he wants to replay history. The shipyards were the springboard for the 1980 Solidarity revolution that eventually broke the spine of communist rule in Poland. Now, Mr Walesa seems to be saying, the communists are back and have to be opposed in a similar way.

Former communists dominate parliament and the Government. His successful rival, Aleksander Kwasniewski — now touring Germany and France — was a communist minister.

The return to the shipyards does not represent a burning desire by Mr Walesa to repair electric hoists. Nor is he desperately in need of the £500-a-month salary of a chief electrician. Rather, the move marks the beginning of the next stage of his political career. It certainly means trouble for the likes of Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister who, in the last days of Mr Walesa's presidency, was accused of passing secrets to the KGB. Yesterday in the rundown yards (no longer named after Lenin), workers were taking bets on how long Mr Walesa would stay with them. He is not universally admired there. Younger workers in particular are less prone to the mythology of the plucky 1980s strike leader, and complain that he did little for them during his five years in power.

The yards, however, are important to Mr Walesa. He was an unhappy country boy until 1967 when, by joining the yards, he transformed himself into a proud worker.

But the corruption of the communist regime was mirrored in the yards — meat shortages, arbitrary price rises, poor safety standards and political sackings enraged the workforce — and eventually Mr Walesa turned against communism. Dismissed from the yards, he had to climb over the fence to lead the 1980s strikes.

When General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed military rule in 1981, Mr Walesa was jailed for a year. On his release he was offered his old job in the yards — to keep him out of trouble. He was put in the electrical workshop and in effect sealed off from the rest of the yard, watched closely by secret police. Even so, he managed to meet underground leaders — usually disguised in wigs and false whiskers — after work.

Life should be somewhat easier for the born-again worker this time. This is perhaps just as well: he no longer has the physique for jumping over shipyard fences.

French troops seize rocket launcher used in tram attack

From Stacy Sullivan in sarajevo

THE rocket launcher thought to have been used in Tuesday's deadly attack on a crowded Sarajevo tram was confiscated yesterday by Nato forces.

French troops pinpointed the origin of the rocket and immediately returned fire after the attack with 20mm cannon rounds before surrounding a high-rise block of flats in Grbavica, a Serb-held pocket in the city. Although their initial search left them empty-handed, yesterday they discovered the launcher.

A joint Nato-UN investigation team then re-enacted the attack, hauling the shattered tram and its 30-year-old driver back to the scene on the city's infamous Sniper's Alley. The rocket attack, originally thought to have been a grenade, had killed one woman and injured at least six others.

The Nato peace implementation force, Ifor, has characterised the rocket attack as an "isolated terrorist act" carried out by rogue military elements and insists that all parties are showing exemplary compliance with the terms of the Dayton, Ohio, peace agreement.

"We don't believe it [the attack] had the backing of any authorities," said British Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Rayner, a Nato spokesman. "It was a senseless and mindless act, but it is not going to stop the peace process." He pointed out that Bosnian Serb police assisted in the investigation.

But the Bosnian Government maintains the Bosnian Serbs are deliberately trying to undermine the peace plan. "We expect a swift and significant reaction," said Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic, who accused the Serbs of having orchestrated a deliberate attack.

Last week Serbs abducted 16 Bosnian civilians as they entered the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza on roads recently opened by Ifor. Serbs at first denied holding the 16, but later released them under heavy pressure from Nato and the United States.

Angry Serbs in the five Serb-held areas around Sarajevo, which are to revert back to government control, are furious with the terms of the Dayton accord. They claim that the disbanding of their Serb militia and police by February 3 will leave them unprotected and subject to recriminations by authorities they have been fighting for nearly four years.

British Challenger battle tanks, which last saw action in the 1991 Gulf War, rolled into Bosnia yesterday, bringing heavy firepower to strengthen the Nato peace force.

A convoy of transporters carrying 12 Challengers, each armed with a 120mm gun and weighing more than 60 tonnes, arrived at the British supply base in the central Bosnian town of Kupres.

☐ **Washington:** President Clinton is expected to meet President Tudjman during a visit to the Balkans this weekend (Tom Rhodes writes). He will urge the Croatian leader to avoid any further conflict that might undermine the American peace initiative in the region.

The current United Nations mandate, which currently has 1,600 Russian and Belgian UN peacekeepers patrolling the area, expires on Monday and American diplomats are anxious that Croatia make no attempt to invade an area it wishes to recapture.

Even the dead start to leave Serb Sarajevo

From Sean Maguire in sarajevo

THE dead are rising in Sarajevo as Serbs take their loved ones away from Muslim rule.

In the Serb suburb of Ilidza, as the coffin of a soldier was pulled from his grave, an angry bystander said: "Don't take pictures! You wrote bad things about us during the war and now you want to look at our misery."

In three weeks' time, under the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serb-held areas around Sarajevo are to be handed to the control of the Muslim-led Government. By mid-March the Muslim-led army will be authorised to enter the Serb suburbs.

Serb pleas to delay the transfer have fallen on deaf ears. Having fought for the right to live separately, few relish government rule. Most say, reluctantly, that they have no choice but to leave their homes.

Until now few have had the courage for the macabre task of exhuming husbands, brothers or friends. But as the time to leave grows near, desperation has prompted action.

"I did not even dream this would start to happen," Ivica, head gravedigger at the Ilidza exhumation, said. "But people say they cannot live without being able to come to the grave every Sunday to light a candle." The dead soldier's sister wailed as Ivica jumped down into the grave and lifted her brother's remains into a new coffin. *(Reuter)*

Toti Librizzi outside the Palermo hotel where Giuseppe Di Stefano has lived in a three-room suite for 50 years

Mafia mystery of man in Suite 202

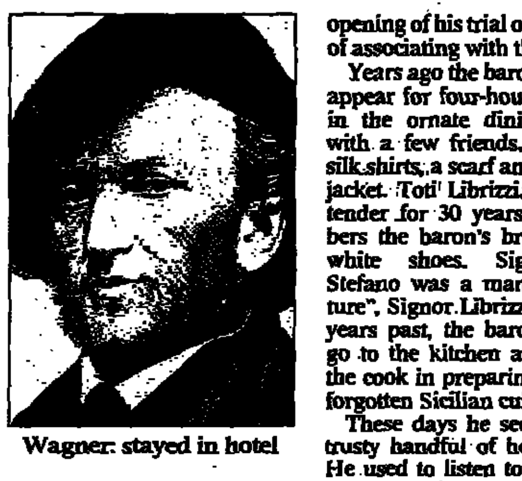
From Daniel Wakin in palermo

FOR half a century, Giuseppe Di Stefano has inhabited Suite 202 of Sicily's most historic hotel, leading a life that captures exquisitely the flavour of this island of silent oaths and secret societies.

The mysterious baron never leaves his three-room suite at the Grand Hotel delle Palme. A barber comes every six weeks. Room service brings all his meals and a maid tidies up each day. An administrator pays his rent. The reception desk turns away all visitors. The 89-year-old Signor Di Stefano's only companion is a 24-hour nurse.

This is the baron's existence as pieced together from those who know him. He lives under a Mafia-imposed exile, according to a story told by hotel personnel. Out one day on the grounds of his vast estate in Castelvetrano, Signor Di Stefano came across a trespasser and killed him. The young man's father, a mafioso, threatened to kill the baron, who begged for an alternative: permanent exile from the world.

"The myth of the baron is a mystery," said Enzo Caruso, the hotel manager. "Sicilians like mysteries. They like to think that a man can live in the shadows." Secrets represent knowledge, so the "more secrets he has the more important the man is." Signor Caruso explained, acknowledging that the publicity is not bad for the hotel, although its history speaks for itself.



Wagner: stayed in hotel

Richard Wagner completed *Parsifal* here. Lucky Luciano, the Mafia boss, ate in its restaurant. Raymond Roussel, the French writer, committed suicide in one of its rooms.

Last September Giulio Andreotti, seven times the Prime Minister, stayed one floor down from the recluse for the opening of his trial on charges of associating with the Mafia.

Years ago the baron used to appear for four-hour lunches in the ornate dining room with a few friends, wearing silk shirts, a scarf and a white jacket. Toti Librizzi, the bartender for 30 years, remembers the baron's brown-and-white shoes. Signor Di Stefano was a man of "culture", Signor Librizzi said. In years past, the baron would go to the kitchen and direct the cook in preparing largely forgotten Sicilian cuisine.

These days he sees only a trusty handful of hotel staff. He used to listen to classical music, but the stereo seems to be gone. Now television news can be heard from outside the suite door, but no one answers a knock — protecting this most Sicilian of mysteries. *(AP)*

Greek Left closes its ranks for crisis vote

From John Carr in athens

THE Greek Government was expected to survive comfortably a parliamentary vote of confidence late last night as Andreas Papandreou, the critically ill Prime Minister, showed signs of improvement.

The 170-strong Socialist majority in the 300-seat legislature capped three days of debate on an opposition motion of censure by temporarily patching over its rifts over the possible replacement of Mr Papandreou, 76.

However, challengers to Mr Papandreou's leadership are more determined than ever to force the issue. "The will of the Greek people is clear," Kostas Simitis, former Industry Minister and front-runner to succeed the Prime Minister, told the parliament. "We need a decision, and now."

The statement emphasised the growing impatience within the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) at the leaderless state of the country as Mr Papandreou's incapacitating illness was in its eighth week. Serious decision-making by Pasok is expected at a crucial meeting of its executive bureau for January 20.

A clash of wills is developing in which the stubborn Mr Papandreou is expected to ignore calls for him to resign. Greece's constitution is studiedly vague on the issue of how to replace a serving head of government. The rules sanction replacement only if a Prime Minister resigns or dies in office.

Details about Mr Papandreou's condition are scarce. A step away from death the week before Christmas, he was this week being given mild muscular exercise by American therapists. Yesterday, however, he was racked by a fever and his doctors continued to rule out any significant recovery.

Leading article, page 19

Mitterrand illness hidden for decade

From Ben Macintyre in paris

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND knew he had prostate cancer from the start of his 14-year presidency but kept his illness secret for more than a decade, despite a promise to be completely "transparent" about his health, French newspapers reported yesterday.

The public was initially told the former President, who died on Monday aged 79, had cancer in September 1992 when he had the first of three operations. Records suggest the disease may have been diagnosed as early as spring 1981, before he was elected for his first seven-year term, but a formal diagnosis may only have been made at the end of that year, after he was installed in the Elysée Palace.

M Mitterrand's decision to hide the facts refects the thick veil of secrecy still surrounding many aspects of his life. By the time he "went public", he had been undergoing treatment to keep the cancer in check, including hormone therapy, for at least ten years, *Le Monde* reported. Robert Mitterrand, 80, has claimed his brother could have been saved if he had received better treatment. But the former President's widow, Danielle, and the couple's two sons insisted yesterday the family had complete confidence in his medical team.

In a television interview on Tuesday, Robert, who was also diagnosed as having prostate cancer, said he had advised his younger brother to see a foreign specialist, adding: "He could have been saved as I was saved."

Today is a national day of mourning in France. Dozens of world leaders are expected at a memorial Mass this morning in Notre Dame cathedral, including the Prince of Wales, John Major and President Yeltsin. M Mitterrand's funeral and burial at his birthplace of Jarnac, southwest France, will take place at the same time, attended only by family and close friends. Last night thousands went to La Bastille for a Socialist rally in his memory.

Italy determined to ensure EMU train runs on time

From Charles Bremner in rome

BRITISH hopes of Italian support for a delay in monetary union spring from wishful thinking, according to the officials who are running Rome's presidency of the European Union while the politicians squabble over the fate of the Government.

The top Foreign Ministry and Treasury officials insisted on their country's devotion to the Maastricht cause as Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, warned parliament that Italy's dignity in the eyes of Europe was at stake in the country's political stalemate.

Italy considers it inconceivable to think of extending the January 1999 deadline for European monetary union (EMU), even if it fails to make the grade when the EU picks the first members in early 1998, Boris Biancheri, the new chief of the Foreign Ministry, said. "If it does not join at the beginning, it will do so after a slight delay." Under Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, Signor Biancheri's team is preparing to push what many British Conservatives view as an unpalatable agenda at the review of the Maastricht treaty, opening in Turin in March.

The future of Signor Dini's caretaker Government remained uncertain yesterday after Silvio Berlusconi, his predecessor, said his bloc would move a resolution asking him to resign or face a no-confidence vote.

Asked by President Scalfaro to stay on, Signor Dini is invoking Italy's six-month European Union presidency as a prime reason for avoiding the upheaval of new elections before the summer. After watching Spain gain credit with an impressive presidential stint, Italy's elite is worried that political chaos could lead it to squander its spell in the Union spotlight and its chance to win back influence lost over the past couple of years.

Agnelli: setting pace

Even if Signor Dini, a European enthusiast in the Italian tradition, stays on, there is concern in Brussels that he will be handicapped by the power vacuum. The return of a centre-right Government, however, would be worse in their view because it would probably take on the more Euro-sceptical colours of the last Berlusconi team.

Italy is determined to keep the "EMU train" moving and hoped that it could show enough progress in bringing down its heavy national debt to convince its partners that it merits a berth in the single currency.

Boutros Ghali accuses debtor US

By Michael Binyon
diplomatic editor

THE United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, yesterday accused America of a "certain dishonesty" over its accusations that his organisation was not doing its job properly.

He said in London that there were "those who, by denying funding, make the UN ineffective, then say that they are withholding funding because the UN is ineffective."

Addressing a meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first session of the General Assembly, Dr Boutros Ghali said the UN's effectiveness was being "corroded from within" because it was being denied the means to do its job properly.

He did not single out America — by far the largest debtor to the UN — by name, but expressed his general exasperation with the refusal by the Congress in the United States, as well as several other debtor countries, to pay their assessed contributions.

Dr Boutros Ghali said the UN was also weakened by its member states' inability to follow through their decisions. "There was a clear commitment from member, but a failure to provide the means to make such undertakings real. "The failure to mobilise and use collective force effectively has caused grave setbacks in Somalia, in Rwanda and in the former Yugoslavia."

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White House officials doubt whether deal on balanced budget can ever be reached

Republicans try to keep 'revolution' on the move

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN leaders were yesterday exploring radical new strategies to advance their "revolution" after the breakdown of their budget negotiations with President Clinton on Tuesday night.

Both sides publicly insisted the negotiations had been suspended, not ended, but privately officials said they had serious doubts whether an agreement on how to balance the budget in seven years was achievable. Wall Street shared those doubts and the Dow Jones index opened sharply lower after plunging 67 points on Tuesday.

Mr Clinton has spent 50 hours in direct talks with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate leader, over the past three weeks. Mr Dole said "fundamental differences" remained, and while both sides have made significant compromises neither can give much more without alienating its core supporters.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said: "The only thing now that is preventing us from getting a balanced budget agreement is Republican insistence that we have a larger tax cut than the President deems necessary, paid for by Medicare savings that the President feels are unnecessary." A balanced budget is at the heart of the Republicans' drive to put America's economic affairs in order, shrink the federal government and devolve power to the states, but Mr Clinton argues that their plan would devastate health, education and environmental programmes and shred the social safety net.

Officially the negotiatiors have gone into recess for a week to take stock of the situation. Republicans say they will return to the bargaining table if and when Mr Clinton presents some new ideas, but in the meantime they are exploring alternative ways forward.

One is to woo conservative Democrats who agree with many parts of their balanced budget plan. It is doubtful that the Republicans could win over enough to secure a veto-proof two-thirds majority in both houses, but the more Democrats they can persuade to defect the more pressure they will put on Mr Clinton.

Another possible strategy is for the Republicans to acknowledge that an agreement is unreachable, cobble together a stopgap budget for 1996 to keep the Government ticking over, and take their case to the people in November's congressional and presidential elections.

A *Washington Post* poll yesterday encouraged the President to stand firm. It gave him a 53 per cent approval rating and compared to 31 per cent for the Republican Congress. By 57 per cent to 36 respondents said Mr Clinton's position on the budget was closer to theirs than the Republicans', and by 47 per cent to 32 they believed the President was trying harder than the Republicans to resolve the issue.

In bald numerical terms Congress and the President have drawn much closer than at the beginning of their talks, but the figures mask deeper ideological differences. For example the Republicans have trimmed their proposed tax cuts from $245 billion over seven years to $177 billion, and Mr Clinton is prepared to cut taxes by $87 billion, but the two sides profoundly disagree on who the beneficiaries should be. The Republicans would now cut only $253 billion from projected spending on the Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programmes for the elderly and poor, far less than they originally proposed, while Mr Clinton would cut $183, but the President rejects deep structural changes in the programmes and the end of automatic entitlement to benefits. For good measure Mr Clinton vetoed on Tuesday night a Republican Bill that would have comprehensively reformed the welfare system by giving the states block grants, letting them fashion their own programmes, and limiting how long people can stay on welfare.

Mr Clinton said the Republican legislation would hurt children and offered too little help putting recipients back to work.

Newt Gingrich, left, and Dick Armey, the House majority leader, listen as Robert Dole struggles to hear a question at a news conference

OJ Simpson explains his innocence in $30 video

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

O. J. SIMPSON is ready to put his side of his acquittal, but only to those prepared to spend $29.95 (£19.50) on his 2½-hour video.

In a staged interview, the former American football star and sports commentator hopes to demolish the notion that his whereabouts were a mystery for 90 minutes during which his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were murdered 18 months ago. In clips from the video obtained by an American television programme, he claims that the lights were on in his house throughout this time, but that they could not be seen by a limousine driver who came to pick him up and claimed that the whole property was in darkness.

The millions who followed Mr Simpson's year-long murder trial will find such arguments hard to take unless they are among those who rejoiced at his acquittal. Neither he nor his lawyers claimed during the trial that lights were on at his house on the night of June 12, 1994, nor did the defence offer a watertight alibi.

OJ Simpson: The Video comes after mainstream news organisations rejected his terms for an interview. The video, which goes on sale this weekend, is also designed to raise money to fight his legal battle against the families of Brown Simpson and Goldman, who have filed wrongful-death claims against him.

First Lady faces fresh onslaught over 'lies'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WHITE House officials were struggling to develop a damage-control strategy yesterday as the attacks on Hillary Clinton's veracity continued.

Alfonse D'Amato, the Senate Whitewater committee chairman, was holding a press conference last night to spell out why he believes the First Lady concealed her involvement with the corrupted bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair, and her central role in the unwarranted 1993 dismissal of the seven-man White House travel office.

Senator D'Amato's committee will hear today sworn evidence from Richard Massey, one of Mrs Clinton's former Rose law firm colleagues, who is expected to undermine further her claims to have had minimal involvement with the bank, Madison Guaranty. The First Lady has said it was Mr Massey, not she, who secured Madison as a client and did most of Rose's work for the bank.

A memo written by one of Mrs Clinton's close friends during the 1992 campaign suggested that Mr Massey had agreed to go along with those statements, but he has allegedly now told investigators they are not true.

Meanwhile, an ABC News poll indicates that 50 per cent of Americans no longer believe Mrs Clinton is telling the truth about Whitewater, and media criticism has spread to most mainstream newspapers. *The Washington Post* said: "The First Lady has some explaining to do". *The New York Times* bemoaned the Clintons' endless "obfuscations".

Striking back, the Clintons' lawyers are suddenly appearing on television shows to condemn the attacks as a partisan witch hunt.

Woman in coma made pregnant

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A WOMAN who has been in a coma for 11 years has become pregnant and is expected to give birth. The identity of the father is not known, but in a shocking case the woman's family alleges that she was assaulted while she lay, motionless and speechless, in a New York nursing home.

The unnamed 29-year-old, quadraplegic since a car crash in 1985, was moved from the Westfall Health Care Centre in Rochester, New York, when she was discovered to be pregnant. She is now at a hospital where her family hopes the baby will be born in April.

The police have questioned employees, including John Horace, a nursing aide who left after being charged with assaulting a female resident.

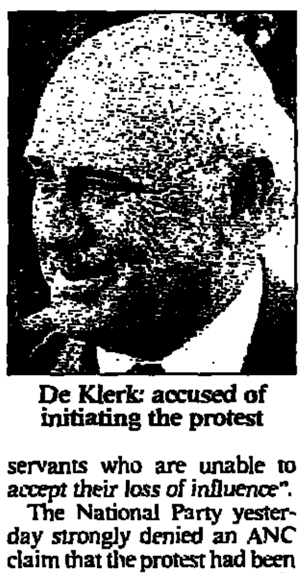
Afrikaners to plead for their rights at rally in Pretoria

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AFRIKANER rightwingers, who for months have been broodingly quiet as South Africa's transition to democracy has developed, are to try to make their voices heard again at a mass rally against what they describe as infringements of their basic rights.

The rally, which is due to take place in Pretoria on Saturday, is being arranged by the Foundation for Equality Before the Law. The organisation was formed last November by, among others, General Johan Van Der Merwe, the police chief during the final years of apartheid rule.

The African National Congress has described it as an attempt to drag Afrikaners back "into the dark ages of apartheid" and the organisers as "a motley crew of ex-politicians and retired civil servants who are unable to accept their loss of influence".



De Klerk: accused of initiating the protest

The National Party yesterday strongly denied an ANC claim that the protest had been initiated by its leader, F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President. A spokesman said the ANC did not have the sole right to stage demonstrations and that if other sectors of society felt strongly about certain issues they should have the right to protest peacefully.

Little has been heard for months of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), but it is expected to make an effort on Saturday to regain some of its influence. Speakers from the Conservative Party, which boycotted the country's 1994 election, the Freedom Front and the National Party will address the rally.

The organisers also anticipate that there will be a large contingent of disgruntled former members of the defence force. They have urged people to turn up if they feel aggrieved by the prosecution of former senior security officials, such as General Magnus Malan, the former Defence Minister, affirmative action and the treatment by President Mandela's Government of the Afrikaans language.

Snowbound Americans ski to freedom on the Internet

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CYBERSPACE, that final frontier of the computer-literate, came into its own this week with thousands of snowbound Americans surfing the Internet as a swift remedy for universal cabin fever.

With a third of the United States still buried under record snowfalls, new flurries in Washington and New York yesterday and further blizzards expected in New England this weekend, many on the East Coast gave up all hope of returning to work, instead uploading spreadsheets and e-mail on terminals at home.

The Blizzard of '96, one of America's worst storms this century, may have left the country paralysed and airports and cities digging themselves out of snowdrifts, but it has offered the first real emergency test for the high-tech world of on-line.

Although detailed weather reports have been popular, sledging in cyberspace for information about closed schools and air terminals, blocked roads and the arrival of snowploughs has proved a less than amusing experience for many who have relied on the traditional channels of newspapers, television and radio.

Instead, it seems, laptops are being used to relieve the relentless boredom of millions confined to the four square walls of their homes from Alabama to Maine. America on Line, the largest service in the country, said yesterday that usage was up 60 per cent. Special chat lines named Cabin Fever or Snowed In were jammed with people flirting and joking. If not always stimulating, the repartee was nonetheless constant. "I need a sled," wrote one in Snowed In. "I need a flamethrower," came the response. "I need a drink," chimed in another. "People who never had computers before are getting on line," William Giles, a spokesman for Compuserve, said. "The snowstorm is giving them time to play."

It also offered many the opportunity to work from home. Sherrie Connelly, president of the Strategy Foundation, a Washington-based management consultancy, was helping to run a conference in Pennsylvania, one of the worst hit states, when the storm first struck.

Fortunate enough to return home before becoming snowbound, Mrs Connelly has used the Internet to stay in touch with others who left the conference and several other delegates still stranded in Philadelphia.

With newspaper deliveries confined to only the largest organisations on already ploughed main roads, on-line services for larger publications yesterday reported a big upsurge in users. The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, unable to distribute its editions for the first time in its 166-year history at the height of the blizzard, has had 152,000 on-line subscribers in the past two days, more than double its normal output. Digital Ink, the *Washington Post* service, also had large increases.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifkind gives full backing to Patten

Peking: Malcolm Rifkind yesterday asked China to resume dialogue with Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, in the final 18 months of British rule in the territory (James Pringle writes).

"It is highly desirable for the British and Chinese sides to have a full dialogue incorporating those who have an important role to play," said the Foreign Secretary.

He said he had also pressed China on alleged abuses in Chinese orphanages and the jailing of the dissident, Wei Jingsheng. Claims that Mr Rifkind had "blundered" during talks with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, were denied by Hong Kong officials yesterday. "We put no credence on the story."

Britons feared kidnapped

Jakarta: Reports that 14 people, four of them British, have been kidnapped in Baliem Valley, in Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya, are to be investigated by British Embassy officials. Sources said the captured group was working for the World Wide Fund for Nature and may also include two Dutch and a German. *(APF)*

Tokyo minister

Tokyo: Ryutaro Hashimoto, the conservative Japanese Prime Minister-designate, has named Wataru Kubo, 66, secretary-general of the Socialist Party, as Finance Minister, media reports said. *(Reuter)*

Poisoners killed

Peking: A mother and son have been executed for killing 18 people and making 160 ill in a mass poisoning in southern China. The woman said spirits had driven her to rid the world of bad people. *(Reuter)*

Brando paroled

Los Angeles: Marlon Brando's son was paroled after serving almost five years for manslaughter, prison officials said. Christian Brando shot his sister's boyfriend at their father's home. *(Reuter)*

Crash arrests

Kinshasa: Three Russian crew members of a cargo plane which ploughed into a Zairean market were arrested as aid workers put the death toll at over 350. The flight recorder was found. *(Reuter)*

Korea arrests

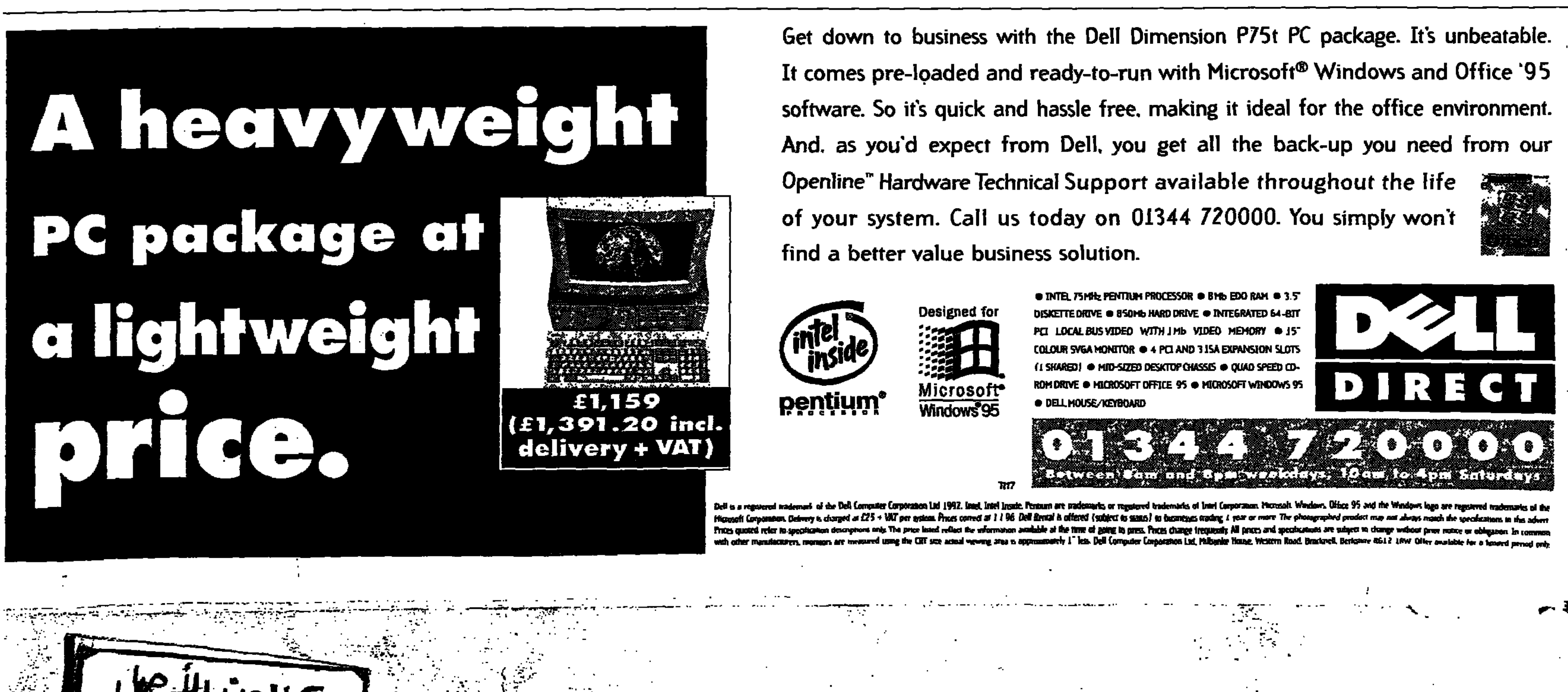
Seoul: Two confidants of Chun Doo-hwan, South Korea's former President, were arrested on charges of collecting slush money from firms. Mr Chun is in jail on charges relating to a 1979 coup. *(AFP)*

Tourist deaths

Guatemala City: Ann Ahern, a British tourist, and an American woman friend have been shot dead at Lake Atitlán 40 miles from here, police said. Both had been living in Alaska. *(AP)*

Winner takes all

Bonn: Walter Thiele, 75, a German millionaire, has advertised for a man to look after his "young and beautiful" wife, 29, and his fortune when he dies. He has had hundreds of replies. *(Reuter)*



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Concluding our series: The truth about male and female menopause...

- ■ Does the male menopause really exist? **Jeremy Laurance** finds that men too can suffer from hormonal changes — and it can be treated
- ■ Hormone replacement therapy brings relief from the classic short-term symptoms of female menopause, but how safe is it in the long term?
- ■ **Rita Carter** assesses the effectiveness of remedies for male baldness

- ■ Opposite, **Leslie Kenton** on how water can heighten your energy and improve your skin
- ■ Simple breathing techniques can improve your mood, increase your resistance to illness and help you to sleep
- ■ **Daniel Johnson** discovers that writers have always been obsessed with ageing

Ageless ageing image © LIFE MAGAZINE/BOBBY NOEL-ADAMS

Run out of steam? Get a change of life

MALE MENOPAUSE

Sometimes it's the mood that slips first, sometimes the performance. There may be a growing tetchiness, an air of gloom, an unfamiliar brittleness. Or there may be the dreaded limp, as one sufferer put it, a state of permanent detumescence that casts a long shadow over a man's midlife.

The male andropause — so-called to distinguish it from the female menopause — is said to be responsible. Until recently, the notion of a male pause of any kind drew ill-concealed contempt from the medical establishment. But gradually the idea that men undergo hormonal changes in parallel with women has gained wider acceptance.

Next year, a version of hormone replacement therapy for men will be available on prescription in Britain. The Androderm patch, which will deliver a measured dose of sex hormone testosterone through the skin, is already licensed in the United States.

However, specialists are concerned that fashion, not clinical need may drive demand. Men with dead-end jobs or dull marriages may seek release from humdrum lives through a treatment already described as an elixir of youth. The women who have to live with newly libidinous partners may see it differently.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, the Harley Street specialist who has long championed the notion of a male menopause — though he favours the less wimpish term "viropause" — has treated more than 1,000 men over the past eight years. "It is not just a matter of boosting sexual desire. There is a loss of drive in the bedroom and the boardroom, with growing fatigue and irritability that makes men difficult to live with. It is as if they have run out of steam."

The male menopause is gradual and only has serious effects — causing the bone thinning disease osteoporosis, for example — in some men over 50. Two processes appear to be at work. There is a natural decline in testosterone levels and a reduced sensitivity to the hormone, which is produced in the testicles. At the same time there is a decline in the mildly adrogenic hormones secreted by the adrenal glands, sometimes referred to as the adrenopause.

Replacing the lost hormones with pills or skin patches has been shown to bring physical and psychological benefits and improve general well being in carefully selected patients. But indiscriminate prescribing can be dangerous.

Professor John Grimley Evans, professor of clinical geratology at the University of Oxford, says: "There is growing interest in whether aspects of the ageing process might be treated by hormonal means. But one doesn't lightly rush in to give testosterone. It can produce unwanted effects such as increased aggression and excessive libido."

There are fears that boosting testosterone levels may increase the risk of heart attacks and prostate cancer. Nor should ordinary men expect a capsule of hormone to transform them into spectacular lovers. It cannot turn wimps into warriors.

> 'Men with dead-end jobs or dull marriages may seek release from humdrum lives through an elixir of youth'

Professor Grimley Evans says that people should be aware that the menopause is coming. "It is a potentially dangerous time. It is very sad when you see men letting themselves go to pot, putting on weight and hitting the bottle."

Many specialists worry that old age may be treated as if it were a testosterone deficiency — a condition cured with a bottle of potion. Some men, like some women, view the change of life as a relief from sexual pressure. As a wise physician once put it: "Three things are necessary for a happy old age: a set of comfortable false teeth, a good pipe and a total lack of libido."

JEREMY LAURANCE

KOBAL

The medical establishment now accepts that men, like women, undergo a menopause. HRT for men is on the way

FEMALE MENOPAUSE

It was "intellectual decay" that tipped the balance for Dr Miriam Stoppard, the television presenter and author. "In the middle of a sentence I would suddenly fall into a black hole, not being able to get out the next word. It was an early sign of the menopause, so started taking hormone replacement therapy immediately. Within a week I was back to normal." For Claire Rayner, the agony aunt and author, it was menopausal hot flushes that were "driving me potty". HRT put an immediate stop to them.

The MP Teresa Gorman and the novelist Fay Weldon are also advocates of HRT.

With such testimony, it is not surprising that one in five postmenopausal women are taking HRT and that one in three are predicted to be on it by the year 2000. Actress Kate O'Mara describes HRT as "the last frontier to the emancipation of women". But how safe is it?

The jury is still out, according to Dr Madge Vickers, who is about to start the largest trial of HRT in the world, recruiting 36,000 women to her study.

There is little doubt among doctors that HRT brings relief from the classic short-term symptoms of the menopause — hot flushes, night sweats and vaginal dryness. But it is the long-term effects — when HRT is taken for five to ten years — that views diverge.

HRT is credited with halving the risk of heart disease but raising the risk of breast cancer. It is valuable as a defence against the bone-thinning disease, osteoporosis. But fears that it could increase the likelihood of endometrial cancer have now receded.

Most HRT studies involve only small numbers of women. One of the latest, published in the US journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, suggests that it cuts the death rate by half, mainly by reducing the risk of heart disease.

Fears about a link between breast cancer and HRT, which first surfaced five years ago and then receded, were reawakened last year by a study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It showed a 40-50 per cent increase in breast cancer in women who had taken HRT over the long term, for at least five years. Dr Vickers says: "People now feel there may be an increased risk of breast cancer with every extra year of use."

Teresa Gorman: takes HRT

> 'In the short term HRT will bring benefits, but in the long term there is a risk of breast cancer'

The difficulty for doctors advising women is that most research evidence is based on the old oestrogen-only preparations. When the increase in endometrial cancer was noted, combined preparations, which included progestogen, were introduced, which have largely eliminated this risk. What is not known is the effect of progestogen on heart disease.

Dr Vickers says the question of whether to take HRT is one each woman must weigh up for herself, in consultation with her doctor. "There is little doubt treatment will bring benefits in the short term. In the long term, she will derive some benefit in terms of a lower risk of heart disease and stroke, but that may be at the cost of an increased risk of breast cancer. The question is how importantly that figures in her mind."

JEREMY LAURANCE

Keep your hair on, naturally

REMEDIES FOR BALDNESS

Men have been seeking a cure for baldness for more than 5,000 years but it is only now that they have come up with remedies — other than wigs and hair weaving — that have any measurable effect. Surprisingly, given the demand for a baldness cure, all the current and emerging treatments were originally developed for other conditions. Their effect on hair was a chance discovery.

Male pattern baldness is hereditary and affects nearly all men sooner or later. It is caused by the effect on the hair follicles of a substance called dihydrotestosterone (DHT) — a by-product of the male sex hormone testosterone. As men get older, more testosterone is converted into DHT and this causes their hair to recede from the temples, or to fall out on the crown.

Elton John: fully covered

A group of drugs called alpha reductase inhibitors stop testosterone being converted into DHT. These drugs were developed to prevent prostate enlargement, but in the course of trials it became apparent that they had an effect on hair loss, too. The best known drug of this type is Proscar. It is available only on prescription, and it is not yet licensed for use for baldness — though some hair clinics already prescribe it.

At the moment the only drug which is licensed for male pattern baldness is Minoxidil — sold as a lotion called Regaine. Minoxidil was originally developed as a blood pressure controller and, as with Proscar, its effect on hair regrowth only came to light by accident.

Minoxidil does not work for everyone — about one in three men get some hair regrowth and one in ten get really good results. The new hair, however, tends to be rather fluffy, and if you stop using the lotion the regrowth disappears. Best results seem to come from starting as soon as the bald patch appears. Regaine costs about £25 for a month's supply, and, as you need to use it permanently, the cost of keeping your hair on is £300 a year. Possible side-effects include low blood pressure.

Minoxidil may work better in conjunction with Retinoic acid — a vitamin A derivative related to Retin-A, the anti-wrinkle cream. On its own Retinoic acid has only a slight stimulant effect on thinning hair, but used with Minoxidil it has been shown to increase regrowth by up to 30 per cent.

Retinoic acid is usually used to treat acne, and is not licensed for use in baldness. It can have a very irritant effect on the skin so it is important to get it prescribed through a qualified dermatologist.

If you prefer to try a "natural" cure — ginseng, sesame seeds, Royal Jelly and the traditional Chinese medicinal herb *ban lian cao* (Eclipta prostrata) are all reputed to help hair to regrow. Alternatively, you can get new hair woven in, transplanted or, of course, off the shelf.

RITA CARTER

The best pills to take

SUPPLEMENTS

THOSE who are dedicated to health and longevity may be taking up to 40 supplements every day. But pill-popping on this scale is ill-advised unless you are an expert. It could damage your health and your wallet.

Rather than taking each supplement separately, go for a combined product designed to meet your requirements. Health stores now stock a number of anti-ageing formulations, plus "niche" products for post-menopausal women, male sports enthusiasts and so on.

Alternatively, opt for a basic combined vitamin and mineral pill, then top it up with one or two supplements specifically for your health risk or problem. Take your time choosing the basic product and read the labels carefully. Most will give the amount of each ingredient, plus the percentage that it represents of the recommended daily allowance (where there is one). Go for those which give the nearest to 100 per cent. Try to have a look at the tablets before you buy them. Some are the size of horse pills and smell like a brewery drain, and there is no point in investing in something you can't swallow.

Those who need to top up with supplements may, for example, be overweight, middle-aged men who should add a fish oil supplement (up to 1,200mg per day) and garlic (1,000mcg) to protect against heart disease. Those who fear they are slowing down mentally may be helped by thiamine (100mcg) and boron (500mg). Zinc (25mg) can offset the effects of alcohol. Post-menopausal women and those who are fair and frail (the main risk factors for osteoporosis) need extra calcium — aim for a total intake of 1,200mg each day. Pre-menopausal women may need extra iron.

For more details about supplements, contact the Institute for Optimum Nutrition (0181-877 9993)

RITA CARTER

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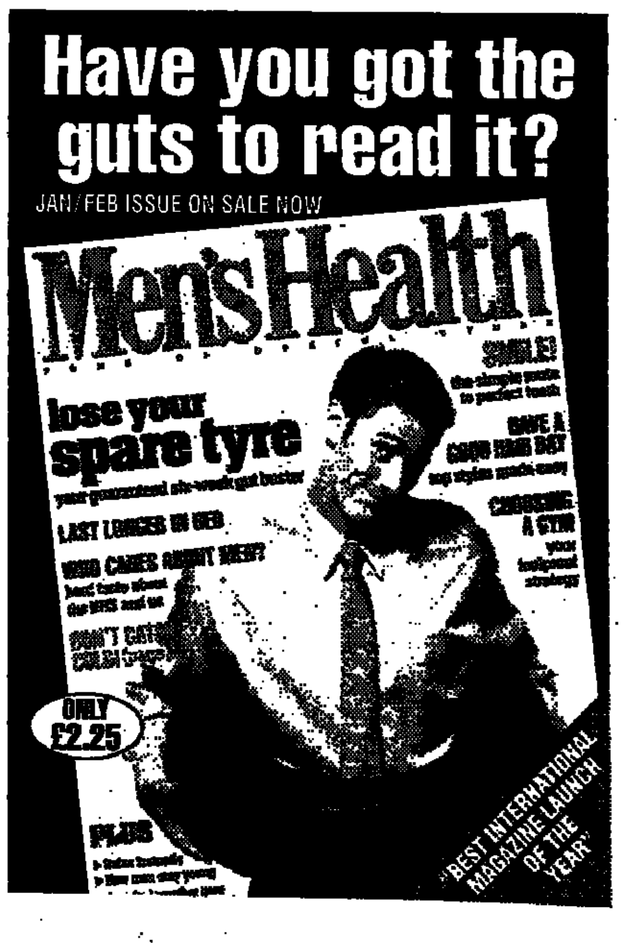

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...and how water and breathing exercises can keep you feeling young

Wake up to water

RETNA

We should drink six pints of a water a day to stay in top form (most of us consume less than two). Water helps to eliminate waste, raises energy levels and improves the look of skin

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

At the core of a lifestyle for ageless ageing is pure water — lots of it. Water is the most important nutrient of all. It is the stuff from which your blood, your cells, your muscles, even your bones, are mostly made.

Let yourself become dehydrated and the chemical reactions in the cells involved in fat-burning become sluggish. Not only that, but your cells cannot build new tissue efficiently, toxic products build up in your blood stream and your blood volume decreases so that you have less oxygen and nutrients transported to your cells.

Dehydration also results in your feeling weak and tired and can lead to overeating as it disturbs appetite mechanisms so that you think you are hungry when you are not.

Yet few of us drink as much water as we need to remain in top form. On average, in a temperate climate, when not sweating from exertion or heat, we need about six pints a day for optimal health. Few of us consume as much as two. How thirsty you are is not a reliable indication of how much water you need.

Provided you do not suffer from a kidney or liver disease, drinking eight big glasses of water a day not only helps you to lose weight and keep it off, but it improves the functioning of your body.

It takes a bit of practice at first to make sure you get your water quota each day, but soon it will become second nature. Start by drinking two glasses of water first thing in the morning, either neat or with a twist of lemon or lime. You can heat the water if you like. This helps with elimination.

Then drink two or three glasses between breakfast and lunch, and another two or three between lunch and dinner. When you exercise, or when it is hot, drink more.

Getting the water habit will quench your appetite, improve your body's ability to eliminate wastes, heighten your energy levels, improve the look of your skin and help your metabolic processes to function at peak.

LESLIE KENTON

Obsessed with growing older? You are in good company

WRITERS AND AGEING

THE DAYS of our years are three score years and ten, says the Psalmist. But the writer hopes to use that brief span in order to live for ever. Hence the thought of advancing age always creates a tension in the literary mind. Shakespeare's dark awareness that "Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth, and delves the parallels in beauty's brow" is suffused with the dim aurora of Wordsworth's "intimations of immortality".

Young writers can afford to ignore the process of ageing, and like Keats prefer to be "half in love with easeful Death" — which sounds more romantic and is not yet real. They are in a hurry, and dread wasting glorious youth: "In headaches and in worry / Vaguely life leaks away," wrote the young Auden, and his sense of urgency is shared by most poets and novelists in their twenties.

The fact that some really do die young only reinforces the notion that death is preferable to decrepitude, and that ageing can somehow be put off for ever. Rupert Brooke praised the young soldiers who sacrificed on the battlefield "that unhoped serene, / That men call age". John Lennon, the Sixties equivalent to the war poets, sang that "life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans".

The assumption of the twentysomethings that nothing could be worse than old age is not necessarily shared by the aged themselves. Cicero thought serenity was not to be sneezed at, while Yeats mused on his Nobel Prize medal, which bore the image of a youth listening to a beautiful Muse: "I was good-looking once like that young man, but my verse was full of infirmity, my Muse old as it were; and now I am old and rheumatic, and nothing to look at, but my Muse is young." Dr Johnson, though, was in no doubt that it was better to be young and frivolous: "If I had no duties, and no reference to futurity, I would spend my life driving briskly in a post-chaise with a pretty woman."

Writers have the power to spin their grey hairs into gold

It is really only in their late thirties that most writers start to worry about the future. Perhaps the two greatest meditations on ageing in English, Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici* and Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, were written not by old fogies but by men in the prime of life.

Some thirtysomethings take refuge in escapism: Housman dreams of his Shropshire lads "that will die in their glory and never be old", and Gray recalls that "the paths of glory lead but to the grave". When Byron wrote some verses on the eve of his 37th birthday, he struck a lachrymose note: "My days are in the yellow leaf; / The flowers and fruits of love are gone; / The worm, the canker, and the grief / Are mine alone!"

Rupert Brooke praised the young soldiers of Flanders

For Cyril Connolly, it was fatherhood that made him feel his age (he was only 35): "There is no more sombre enemy of promise than the pram in the hall."

But it is also the onset of middle age which awakens an appreciation of maturity, and especially the attractiveness of the mature woman. Shakespeare wrote the noblest paean of all to her in *Antony and Cleopatra*: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." There is no better female part in all Shakespeare, yet Cleopatra is almost 40 by the time the play begins.

In what stark contrast to the maudlin self-pity of men, though, are the calm reactions of the classical women writers to ageing. As Chesterton said, the novel of the 19th century was female, and the greatest female novelists did not begin until they were past the first flush of youth: Jane Austen and George Eliot. They both contemplate the onset of middle age with equanimity. While they acknowledge the crucial importance of age in any social situation, they treat it as a fact to be reckoned with rather than as a misfortune.

Growing older ought to teach writers, like anybody else, to appreciate their elders. "When I was a boy of 14 my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around," wrote Mark Twain. "But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."

But, more than any other profession, writers have it in their power to keep spinning their grey hairs into gold. Shaw, who lived and wrote into his nineties, is supposed to have said of youth: "Far too good to waste on children."

DANIEL JOHNSON

HEALTH OFFER

Your chance to enjoy a free day at a health club and to enter our prize draw to win a year's free club membership

Page 38

All we need is the air that we breathe

BREATHING EXERCISES TO KEEP YOUNG

Chinese medicine has a long tradition of natural "ageless ageing", much of which centres on the use of the breath. This is something to which we give little attention in the West. It is strange to think that specific breathing techniques are ignored, given that the body's use of oxygen is *the* central determinant of the rate at which we age.

One of the reasons regular aerobic exercise is so beneficial in slowing the rate at which you age and at warding off degenerative diseases is that it improves your use of oxygen. So can learning to breathe fully. It can also improve your mood, increase your resistance to colds and illness, and improve your sleeping.

Full breathing is also an important tool for encouraging waste elimination — a kind of spring-cleaning process that can go on all year round, every day of your life.

Few people breathe fully. Most of us, particularly in sedentary jobs, breathe high — that is, we breathe quickly and in a shallow way, concentrating the inhalations in the upper chest area, which is the part of the lungs that holds the smallest quantity of air.

Not only does this kind of breathing inhibit oxygen intake, it can also encourage the lungs to atrophy and to lose their elasticity — a common occurrence as people get older.

Other people, who allow the air to flow deeper into their lungs, are mid-breathers. But to make the best use of oxygen for ageless ageing, it is important to develop the habit of taking total breaths so that they become a normal way of breathing.

In breathing totally, all of your breathing apparatus comes into play. The intercostal muscles expand the ribs outward to create a large space in which your lungs can inflate to their maximum. The diaphragm moves down, pulling the lower ribs outward, which lets even the very bottom of your lungs fill completely with air.

Practise it lying down for five minutes a couple of times a day — perhaps on awakening or just before going to sleep — and gradually it will become an automatic way of breathing. Not only will this help with ageless ageing, it will also help to improve your resistance to fatigue and the glow of your skin. It will also have some effect in protecting you from minor illness.

Here is the technique:

- ● Lying flat on your back with a small pillow beneath your neck, place one hand on your abdomen and rest the other on one side of your ribcage. Inhale slowly through your nose, imagining you are sending your breath to a place about two inches below your navel.
- ● As the in-breath continues, let it fill your stomach. Then expand your ribcage to the side, as well as the mid-section of your chest.
- ● Now let the fresh breath fill the upper part of your chest area. The whole process of inhalation should take about five seconds.
- ● Hold your breath for another five seconds to begin with, then gradually increase the time.
- ● Now exhale, following the same gradual process: first, contract your lower abdomen gently, then let the lower lungs deflate, followed by the upper chest. This process should also take no more than five seconds to complete.
- ● But note, it is important, before beginning the cycle again, to rest for a second or two.

This will help to improve the glow of your skin

☐ *Taken from* The New Ageless Ageing: The Natural Way to Stay Young, *by Leslie Kenton, published by Vermilion, an imprint of Ebury Press, £7.99.*

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LESLIE KENTON

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☐ How doctors make certain that a patient is dead ☐ Improved steroid treatment for eczema ☐ The mystery of restless leg syndrome

Diagnoses of death

MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE CASE of Mrs Daphne Banks, who was found to be alive just as she was about to be slotted into one of the freezing compartments in the local mortuary, has unfortunately given credence to a common phobia. Many patients have the unnecessary fear that they might be buried alive, later to wake in their coffins only able to hammer in vain on the lid.

It is not unknown for patients to ask their doctors to make certain that they are dead by cutting their arteries before they are buried. I recently met somebody who had made just such a request more than 30 years ago. In his case the fear had been engendered in 1957 by wide publicity given to an incident in which a 78-year-old woman had been in her coffin for eight hours, but was only noticed to be alive as the pathologist was about to begin a post mortem.

The diagnosis of death is usually straightforward. The death is expected and the end follows a familiar pattern as life ebbs away. No pulse can be felt, the heart cannot be heard, the pupils of the eyes dilate and fail to react to light, and, if the surface of the eye is touched, there is no blink response. If there is any doubt, the doctor usually listens for the heartbeat for four or five minutes until convinced that it has stopped.

The days when a mirror or feather was held in front of the mouth are gone. The fear of making a mistake is not that the patient might, Lazarus-like, arise from the dead in the graveyard, but that somebody who might have been resuscitated could be allowed to drift from unconsciousness to an unnecessary death.

I was called to a house once to see a young man who had been stung by a bee, had collapsed and apparently died. A retired nurse confirmed death, but fortunately I went immediately to examine the body and arrange for the coroner to be notified. Even as I started to mumble my condolences the sheet moved. The patient had suffered transient renal failure, and made a full recovery.

Diagnosing death can be difficult. A former policeman told me that when he was in the force he was taught that he should only venture an opinion in the case of apparent death when the victim had been decapitated, otherwise it should be left to the doctor. Mistakes tend to be made in noisy surroundings where a heartbeat can be drowned by street noises, and the pulse may be hard to feel because of shock following blood loss. Intoxication with alcohol, and drug overdosage, may mimic death, particularly if the patient is also exposed to cold. Hypothermia from any cause, including near drowning, can be misleading as can unconsciousness after an electric shock.

Many years ago an elderly woman patient of mine was so obsessed about the cost of heating that she kept her home freezingly cold. One winter's day I received a call from the ambulance controller to say she had been found dead on the floor of her cottage. It was too late to divert the ambulance to the casualty department, so I went to visit her in the mortuary, and noticed that she still had a heartbeat. It was a classic case of a patient, unconscious through hypothermia, being presumed dead.

In casualty the resuscitation team set to work, the patient was attached to a mass of wires and tubes. Soon the aged, cynical but very experienced and competent surgeon who was in charge of the hospital's emergency services, came to see her. It was explained that she had been taken, as dead, to the mortuary but was now alive and in his care. He examined her carefully, gave his opinion that she would have suffered irretrievable brain damage, and switched off the machinery, which by now was keeping her alive, saying: "And now she is dead again."

Skin creams up to scratch

THE Betnovate steroid creams and ointments have been an essential part of medical practice for nearly a generation. Last year Glaxo introduced Cutivate cream which is, as it were, Betnovate mark two. This month the manufacturers have extended the range by releasing Cutivate ointment for treatment of dry, scaly eczema in which some moisturisation of the skin would be useful.

Cutivate does not have to be applied quite as often as Betnovate; only once a day if the cream is used, twice a day for the ointment. In general, creams are recommended in the treatment of weeping, moist skin conditions, and ointments for those lesions which are dry and scaly, or if the area is to be covered.

Cutivate is as potent as Betnovate but is less likely to cause any side-effects if it is absorbed. It is recommended for use in cases of eczema and dermatitis but, like Betnovate, should not be prescribed for acne rosacea, peri-oral dermatitis or viral skin diseases such as shingles or herpes. Nor should it be used where bacterial or fungal infection is present or when the skin trouble is in an area prone to infection. Betnovate combined with an appropriate fungicide or antibiotic is available for treating those parts of the body that might harbour organisms.

Potent steroid creams should be applied for only a few days at a time to the face because the fine skin there may atrophy and develop skin lesions as unsightly as those the cream was designed to treat.

Shaken and then stirred

THE restless leg syndrome is one of the unsolved mysteries of medicine. A 425-page treatise, *Akathisia and Restless Legs* by Perminder Sachdev, recently published by Cambridge University Press contains no explanation for the syndrome when its origins are apparently spontaneous and not an accepted side-effect of a drug. But some people do suffer such discomfort in their legs that they are unable to keep them still, and endure, together with their partner, restless and disturbed nights.

Their symptoms can occur at any time of the day but tend to arise after they go to bed and are normally of an aching nature, although some patients complain of burning sensations and irritation. Whatever the nature of the trouble, the resulting irresistible urge to move the legs inevitably causes insomnia, which the following day leads to tiredness, irritability and a poor work performance.

Some surveys have suggested that more than 10 per cent of the population demonstrate some degree of leg restlessness; it is slightly more common in women than men. Rheumatoid arthritis, excessive coffee drinking and pregnancy are all known to make the condition worse. It is claimed that various drugs, including the calcium antagonists such as Adalat (nifedipine) provide some relief.

Levodopa, the drug used to treat Parkinson's disease, is also prescribed by some doctors but its side-effects can be worse than the disease.

The cooking fat that bypasses the hips

After 25 years of research, a food company believes it has found the perfect butter substitute, says **Nigel Hawkes**

JEZ COULSON/INSIGHT

Fat-free snacks: low-calorie chips may become a reality if Procter & Gamble get the go-ahead to sell Olestra

A FAT that tastes like fat but doesn't leave its traces on the hips or on the heart sounds like a dream. But Procter & Gamble's Olestra, now nearing the market after a gestation of almost 25 years, raises mixed feelings among food scientists.

Unlike some fat substitutes that are based on carbohydrates or proteins, Olestra is a fat. That means its taste and "mouth-feel" are the same as a regular fat, but it carries zero calories, and is not absorbed by the body.

Normal dietary fats are mostly triglycerides — three fatty acids linked to glycerol. The molecule of Olestra is bigger, consisting of either six or eight fatty acids linked to a sugar molecule, and resists digestion by the enzymes in the stomach. That means that Olestra passes through unchanged, with no chance to clog the arteries.

Better still, says P&G, it can be used for deep-frying, producing potato crisps as good as traditional ones. Those who have tasted Olestra-fried crisps agree that they are good, though there is a slight aftertaste.

The effect of frying in Olestra is to reduce the calorie count of an ounce of crisps from 150 to 60. A slice of pie in Olestra pastry would come down from 405 calories to 250, while a helping of chocolate cake would go down from 230 calories to 160. This could help slimmers, but there are caveats. Wouldn't they simply satisfy a fat craving by eating other things?

Olestra's opponents in America, orchestrated by Ralph Nader's Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CPSI), have focused attention below the belt. Because the molecules of Olestra move unchanged through the stomach, they can act as solvents, removing other nutrients from the body.

Vitamins A, D, E and K and beta-carotene are all fat-soluble, and trials have shown that they can be stripped from the body by eating Olestra. P&G says that it has solved this problem by adding extra vitamins to Olestra-based foods, saturating the molecule's appetite so that it no longer absorbs additional vitamins. But they have not done the same with carotenoids.

A second problem is that Olestra-based foods can cause laxative effects or even, in the killer phrase latched on to by CSPI, "anal leakage". This has been cured for almost all consumers by tinkering with the molecular structure to make the product more viscous. But how many people will be willing to take even the smallest chance of embarrassing accidents?

At the hearings before the US Food and Drug Administration, CSPI's executive director, Michael Jacobson, painted a ghastly picture of a young athlete subjected to taunts in the locker-room as a result of stains on his boxer shorts. This is not especially tasteful stuff, but when Mr Nader's raiders identify an issue, they fight dirty — in this case, literally.

There have been plenty of arguments before about food constituents, but this one is different in at least one respect. While additives, colourants or antioxidants are present only in small amounts, fat is a macronutrient, making up a substantial proportion of the food. The classic example of such a major dietary change was the introduction of margarines to replace butter earlier this century.

Some nutritionists now wonder if the trans-fats in margarines did not do as much harm as the saturated fats in butter they replaced. One of them is Walter Willett, professor of nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health, who now opposes Olestra. What will happen to consumers who eat it daily for years, he asks? He has described it as "appalling" to propose giving a food to children on the basis of tests largely carried out on pigs.

One unanswered question is whether eating foods made with Olestra will reduce fat and calorie intakes, or simply encourage people to eat more to make up for what they are missing. According to Dr David Mela of the Institute of Food Research at Reading, relatively few studies have addressed the problem. He suspects that as far as calories are concerned, people will compensate by eating more, and the same may also be true of fat.

The artificial sweetener NutraSweet was supposed to reduce obesity by cutting calories. But people who use it also eat something else to compensate: obesity rates have since increased.

"Fat-substituted foods probably should not be relied upon to produce spontaneous improvements in fat intake, body-weight management or obesity," concludes Dr Mela. "But they might help some individuals as part of an overall, wilful effort to control diet."

It is now up to the FDA commissioner, David Kessler, to rule on P&G's application to use Olestra in snacks and crisps. He will decide, not on the basis of whether Olestra makes nutritional sense, but whether it is safe. As American law stands, he will probably have little choice but to give it clearance in the limited market for which the application has been made.

In Britain, P&G applied for permission for the same applications to the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Advisory Committee in 1987, and is still waiting for an answer. From time to time the FAC seeks clarification on various points, and P&G supplies it — but if and when Olestra will be approved is anyone's guess.

The irony is that Olestra is opposed by the very people who have campaigned for years to reduce saturated fat in foods. To their critics, whatever the food companies do is wrong.

Take two spiders and call me in the morning

Magnus Linklater on ancient Highland remedies

Eye of newt, and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog/ Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting, lizard's leg, and howlet's wing... A recipe for horror or just a medical shopping-list? The witch's brew from *Macbeth* contains just a few of the ingredients which crop up time and again in old country remedies; some of them have genuine medicinal properties, others form part of traditional healing rituals. But given a trial period of several centuries, it is not surprising that many of them have stood the test of time.

Mary Beith, a writer and journalist who lives in Sutherland in the north of Scotland, has spent the past ten years collecting traditional medicines of the Highlands and Islands. She has found a surprising number used within living memory, and some with remarkable healing properties, which, she believes, merit scientific analysis rather than simply being written off as "old wives' tales".

She has not sampled a newt's eye, but she has found prescriptions involving adders' heads, frogs' skins, dogs' saliva, and, if not an owl's wing, then certainly a gannet's chick or the oil of a fulmar. Once, nursing a cut finger, she drew it across a spider's web and found the bleeding miraculously stopped; going to bed with a boiled onion in each armpit did little for her personal hygiene, but it cured a nasty bout of bronchial asthma overnight; and though she has not yet plucked up the courage to swallow a large garden spider, she is in no doubt that it has properties which can help to limit the effects of a stroke.

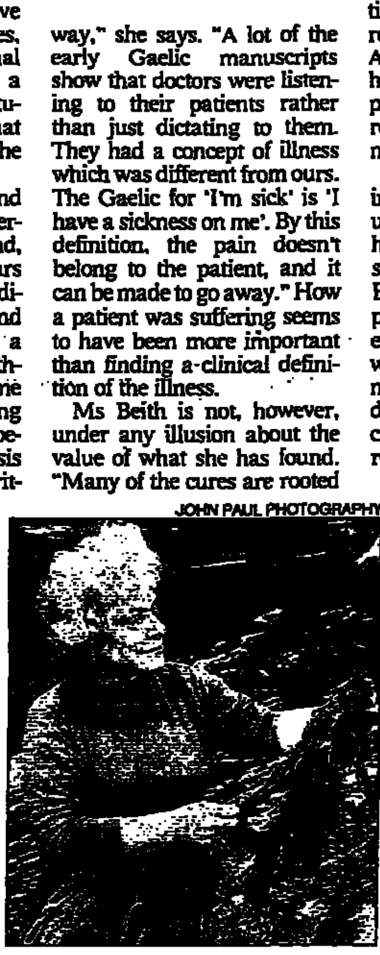
"I don't think I would advise people to try all of these cures at home, but I have no doubt that a lot of the old remedies deserve a proper reappraisal," she says. The adder's fork and the blind-worm's sting from *Macbeth* are commonsense antidotes to snakebite; a frog, sliced in two, was said to cure dropsy; the gannet and the fulmar were so useful to the Hebrideans that they were described as "flying medicine chests".

Ms Beith's book, *Healing Threads*, traces the origins of folk tales and superstitions, and finds a logical explanation behind many. She is convinced that the Gaelic healers in particular drew on a body of medical knowledge which has never been properly collated, and she has found fascinating clinical observations by early travellers which show that what might seem plain superstition to us, was often founded on sound medical practice.

"To understand and do justice to their approach to medicine, we must meet them half way," she says. "A lot of the early Gaelic manuscripts show that doctors were listening to their patients rather than just dictating to them. They had a concept of illness which was different from ours. The Gaelic for 'I'm sick' is 'I have a sickness on me'. By this definition, the pain doesn't belong to the patient, and it can be made to go away." How a patient was suffering seems to have been more important than finding a clinical definition of the illness.

Ms Beith is not, however, under any illusion about the value of what she has found. "Many of the cures are rooted in the beliefs of their time and depended on creating their own sense of drama. We could never go back to that." Nevertheless, she wonders whether there is a great deal of difference between some of the ancient objects regarded as having mystic healing qualities, and the way a sick child today can be encouraged towards recovery by clutching a sporting hero's football scarf, or listening to a favourite tape.

JOHN PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY



Mary Beith: testing ancient cures

"Of course, modern medicine knows far more about physiology than the ancient healers did," she says, "but they found ways round it. There wasn't a lot they could do about heart disease, for instance, so they treated the symptoms, like dropsy, or chest pains. An inner sickness, they reasoned, might be healed by a lotion or a poultice. An external one, like skin disease, by purifying the inner self."

Psychology played a big part in convincing patients that they could be cured, so pagan incantations, the powers of a particular healer, and an instinctive belief in ritual were important elements in the healing process — not, perhaps, so very different from today when faith in a particular doctor can be every bit as important as the pills he or she prescribes.

A favourite Celtic remedy for lung disease was a carrot poultice, made out of crushed wild carrots, heated, mixed with oatmeal then applied to the chest. Wild carrot does indeed have medicinal properties, but it could never of itself reverse a cancerous growth. Applied by a confident healer, however, able to convince his patients that they were on the road to recovery, the remedy might achieve a miracle.

Certain plants, animals and insects were plainly of more use than others, and Ms Beith has not only sought them out, she has tried many herself. Eyebright, the aptly-named plant which has long been effective as a soothing eyewash, can, she found, if simmered in milk, drained off and drunk, be of long-term help in curing redness and soreness round the eyes.

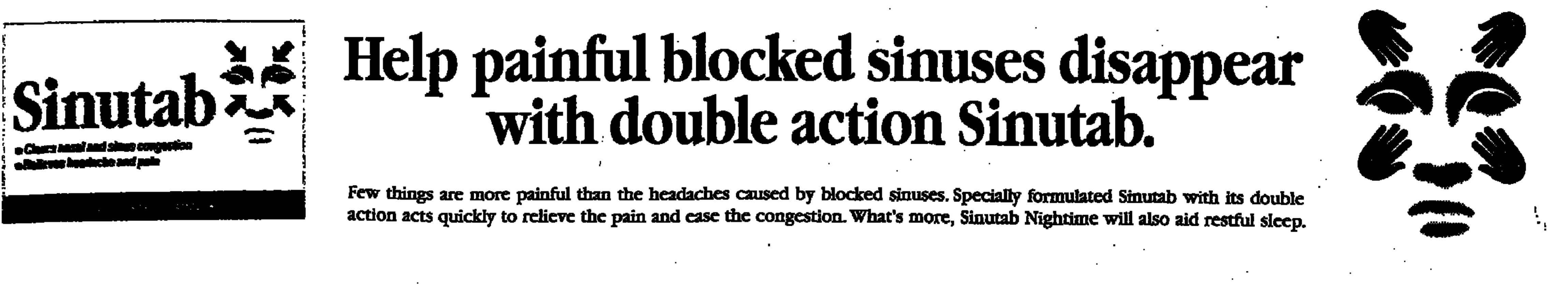
Thyme, one of the most potent of tonics, known as "the king's herb" in Gaelic, was prescribed for nerves and weak chests, and was once popular as an everyday beverage. She found it was a very effective sleeping draught when brewed up like tea. "It's perfectly foul," she admits, "but effective."

Perhaps most interesting were the plants commonly used to heal wounds or bruising. Kidney vetch, primrose leaves, bogbean, and especially ribwort plantain, stopped bleeding when applied to cuts, and rapidly led to the forming of a second skin. It was while Ms Beith was in Mull that she also discovered the healing properties of the spider's web. "I had caught my finger on the snib of a gate," she says, "and the bleeding wouldn't stop. I went into a byre draped with cobwebs, drew my hand across a spider's web, and the bleeding stopped."

She also thinks that there might be something in the old belief that swallowing a large garden spider gives relief in the aftermath of a stroke. "The main damage is caused by the body overproducing glutamates," she says. "Spider venom counteracts this. It has certain properties that stop spasms. It has to be live, because then it goes down the throat spitting venom. A friend from Shetland told me that up there they cover the spider with butter first. It makes it easier to swallow."

Perhaps, once again, Shakespeare knew something about this. In Richard III, Queen Margaret, Henry VI's widow, asks Elizabeth: "Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider?"

Healing Threads *by Mary Beith is published by Polygon (£9.99).*



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Darling baba, all love Larry

For the first time, Lord Olivier's biographer reveals the private letters of a theatrical genius, by **Julia Llewellyn Smith**

The ink is fading on the scrap of paper, the handwriting almost illegible. "My darling," it reads. "Here's your thesarus *(sic)*. You see I was listening all *those times you* mentioned it! Happy, happy birthday."

Vivien Leigh scribbled this to her husband Laurence Olivier, on one *unspecified* birthday. It is a poignant fragment from the happy moments in a marriage that was soon to descend into madness and tragedy.

It was a trivial note, but Lord Olivier *could not* bear to throw it away. A compulsively organised man, he kept everything from steamboat tickets to love letters. In the loft of his home in Steyning, West Sussex, dozens of suitcases are *bulging* with yellowing missives and neatly-kept engagement diaries, full of entries such as: *22 July 1951: lunch:* Judy Garland and daughter, Orson Welles, Peter Finch, Ralph Richardson, Humphrey Bogart.

In a nearby barn, in crates crawling with silverfish, there are letters from such luminaries as David Niven, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Peggy Ashcroft, Richard Attenborough, Noel Coward and Christopher Fry.

Olivier's letters to his friends began either "Darling baba" or "Darling boysie". He signed them "all love, Larry".

The task of piecing these documents together has gone to Dereck Granger, a former theatre critic and the producer of the television adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited*, in which Olivier played his swansong role as Lord Marchmain.

Granger was a close friend of the actor and now the Olivier family, who have been stung by the allegations in Donald Spoto's unauthorised biography, has chosen him to write the first official biography, which is expected to be published at the end of next year.

"I must say, I do sometimes feel a *frisson* of guilt when I am reading Larry's *private correspondence*," says Granger. "I am not sure I would like him to read mine."

Granger is sitting on the floor of Olivier's bedroom. His lordship's widow, Joan Plowright, is in Tenerife, his daughter Tamsin is downstairs in the *kitchen. Picture* windows look out on to the large hut housing the swimming pool, the tennis courts and the garden surrounded by thick hedges. "He got very keen on topiaries and had a rather disastrous attempt at cutting Chekhov's Three Sisters," says Granger."

This was a typical piece of behaviour from a man who wanted to be the best at everything. "I have never known anyone who had such an extraordinary aptitude for work," says Granger. "He always made one feel hopeless — as if one didn't do enough."

Granger was a schoolboy in 1937 when he saw Olivier perform his legendary Hamlet. They became friends in the 1950s. "From a very early age, Larry wanted to be in control. When he founded the National Theatre, he was absolutely the leader of the company. He even took it upon himself to organise the stage-door man's leaving party; we have the letters he sent to every member of the company.

Olivier as Lord Marchmain

"He was not only a director there, but also an actor and also the manager. If you look at his diaries you see he spent the day organising schedules and talking budgets and then, at 7pm, getting into makeup and getting onto the stage.

"But during the day he would always find time to do some exercise, have a meal and a nap. He *dreaded playing Othello* because it was so exhausting. He loved drinking, especially his whisky, but he always gave up when he was training for a part. We have a touching letter to Anthony Quayle saying he has foresworn all earthly *pleasures for the duration* of a season at the National.

"He never let up. On one day in 1955, he wrapped the filming of *Richard III* and went straight to Stratford to play Malvolio, Titus Andronicus and Macbeth. The next morning he got *up to go to a local cinema to inspect* the rushes."

This energy and conscientiousness were Olivier's greatest gifts. They could also be his worst flaw. "He was as territorial as a tiger," says Granger. "Once when I was *working with him at Granada, he* became more and more icily indifferent towards me. I couldn't *understand* why *until someone* said: 'He's jealous of you because you know the whole business of studios and scheduling. He can't understand why people were coming to you and not to him.'

"In old age he would get terribly fretful if he wasn't the centre of attention. He would sit with his family and demand: 'What are they talking about at the end of the table?' But how can you be the greatest actor in the world and not want attention?"

Olivier had total belief in himself and was intolerant of criticism or interference. "After he had seen the first cut of *Brideshead*, he invited me to dinner and blasted me because we had cut 30 seconds from his deathbed speech. We thought he would never notice. He bellowed: 'I *only took the role* because of that speech!' By the end of dinner, I had rung Granada and begged them to reinsert those lines. It cost a fortune to put them back, but in retrospect I realised he was right.

"He was also cross because he decided that John Gielgud had a better part as Mr Ryder. 'You have given Johnny the best part,' he complained. We said: 'But only you could play Lord Marchmain, because he was so glamorous.'"

Fools were not suffered gladly: "We have one letter from a member of the National complaining that Larry had hit him in the shoulderblades, while they were standing in the wings and said 'Go out there and get more laughs!' 'I was practically sick on the stage,' he writes." Another letter from Olivier berates the Rank organisation, who prudishly wanted to cut the "blasphemous" "Cry God for Harry" from *Henry V*. "Larry soon put paid to that idea," chuckles Granger.

Yet *this tyranny was laced with* an extraordinarily sweet nature. "He was enormously aggressive in *the pursuit of his career*, and yet so thoughtful in other ways. All the birthdays of his family are listed in *his* diary and every single cricket match and exeat of his children.

"He was a clergyman's son, ingrained from childhood with a *sense of duty. Financially*, he took care of his stepmother and siblings."

Olivier *replied patiently to* every fan letter. "We have letters to schoolboys telling them how to play Macbeth and another letter to a training college in Staffordshire, which wanted advice on putting on *Hamlet*. He advises performing it *in its entirety* and says: 'It's *simply* a play about a man who cannot make up his mind. Don't worry too much about why he can't, he just can't and you must feel that he can't.' He then apologises for not being able to lend any of the National's props."

In another letter to his third wife, Joan Plowright, he writes. "You *have an absolutely marvellously* uncalculated impish humour which is laced with an aptitude for self mockery. *This last* can be an invaluable but also a dangerous quality, which should be used preciously. The first is priceless but *must not* always be relied *upon* because it will not always get you out of a hole... Acting is basically a *humourless task and that's what* makes people like us suffer so. "Your back is straight and beautiful," he writes in the same letter. "Christ, those *corsets* in this weather."

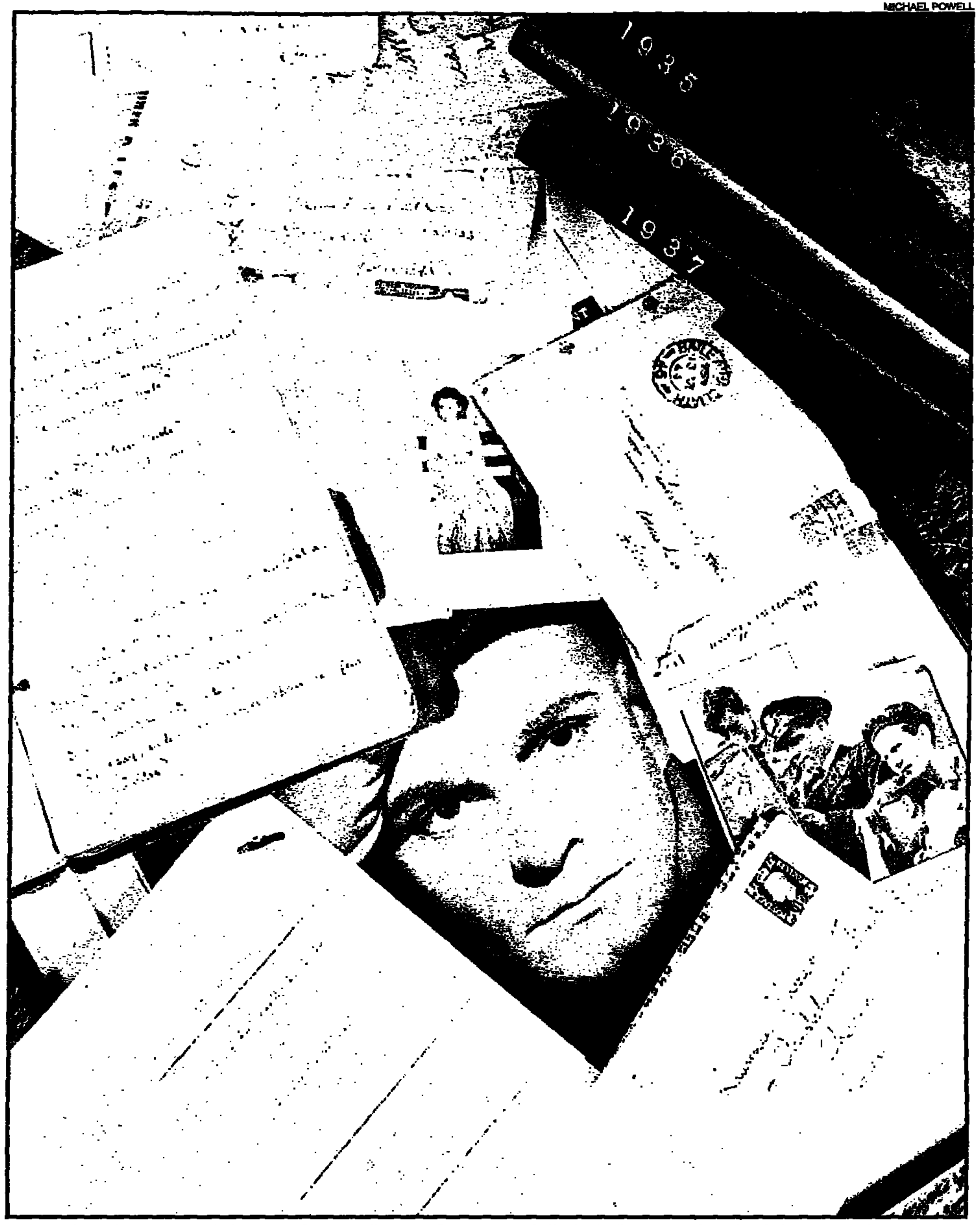
"I hope these letters will scotch Olivier's *reputation* as a bit of an intellectual dumbo," says Granger. "There is a *marvellous urgency* and cogency to them, which many writers might envy."

Granger also hopes that the letters will show that Olivier, while a megalomaniac, was still keen to encourage *his* contemporaries' talents. "He was always writing to Gielgud, Scofield and Redgrave, offering them top roles. He would *never play Falstaff or Cyrano* because he felt they were best done by Richardson." *And he could* laugh at himself. "I remember him in the swimming pool when he was *withered and ill and he flung his* arms in the air and cried 'Look at the sex symbol of the western world!'

Granger can throw less light on Olivier's love life, knowing nothing about the affair claimed by Sarah Miles. Of *his relationship* with Leigh, he says: "It was a very *traumatic* and *draining time*. I think if he had not met Joan and fallen in love again, he couldn't *have founded the National. Had he* stayed married to Vivien, he would have had a very diminished career."

Instead, Olivier went on to forge an even more dazzling career. "There never will be another one like him," says Granger. "*Not only* because he was such a great actor, *but because he was born at the end* of an extraordinary tradition where leading actors were expected to *play all the great classical parts*. Sure, there are the Tony Hopkins, the Branaghs, but they disappear to *Hollywood*. There will never be a period when commercial theatres can also afford to put on Shakespeare and attract such dazzling *names*."

MICHAEL POWELL



The face of the young Olivier stares from a collection of his memorabilia, including letters from his father and Vivien Leigh

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No longer a man's world

Joanna Pitman invades the male-only inner sanctum of the Oxford and Cambridge University Club

It seems that the old fashioned gents of the Oxford and Cambridge University Club are now attached to tradition only by their fingertips. *Uncivilised* opposition to the idea of allowing "lady associate" members to become full members has dwindled to an embattled gang of 324 out of a full male membership of some 3,000 (the 500 ladies do *not, of course, have a vote*). But a ballot expected this month is almost certain to bring victory *to the pro-change faction*, allowing women entry to the inner sanctums of the club for *the first time*.

The mystery is that the antis have managed to fend off change for so long. A club ballot in 1993 showed a 3-1 majority in favour of equal rights, but it was rendered void because the turnout was just short of the required 50 per cent. Sixty-nine college heads have since resigned, along with scores of others, and membership is dropping.

But now that admission rules can be changed by a straight two-thirds majority, the club should be able to sneak into the 20th century just in time.

The stalwarts still opposed to change should not be surprised that they are referred to in the hushed tones of bemused curiosity reserved for endangered animals. Their blustering defence concerns issues of impertinence, disgraceful intrusion and various constitutional verities, and is accompanied by remarks such as "I want to drink in peace. I don't wish to be *surrounded* by headmistresses and female dons. I do wish women did not *try to run everything. They* should restrict that to their families and homes."

The most stubborn and unclubbable may end up resigning. But some have already softened their stance. "The winds of change are blowing and we're going to have to think again," Sir Peter Crill says. "There may be a condition that there are two rooms set aside for members to retreat to — a men's bar and a ladies drawing room."

Heralded by a graceful Pall Mall façade, the club envelopes the visitor with a cherished sense of Establishment. There are formal reception rooms, lofty ceilings hung with chandeliers, the odd hunting trophy and a selection of colonel-types gathered happily around fireplaces with their mems murmuring "quaite" at each other over postprandial coffees.

But ladies are steered firmly away from the marble staircase which sweeps up from the reception under yards of Tory blue carpeting. It is said that they are only allowed up as far as the penultimate stair, for to go further would take them to *the second-floor male sanctum*, the home of the club's library and smoking room.

Could it be that the 324 antis believe that women would damage or infect the books? Are they worried about the oestrogen count or the decaying action of sweaty fingers (an old Japanese excuse for preventing women from becoming sushi makers)?

Risking life and limb, and having already witnessed two men trespassing unaccompanied in the ladies drawing room, I stepped out of the ladies lift and invaded the library by a few feet, braced for a volcanic run-in, or at the very least a couple of stick pokings and a squirt from a fountain pen.

Three young gents were sitting reading, wearing *permafrost* expressions and Savile Row-ish suits, while a squire in noisy tweeds was browsing the shelves. My arrival elicited a couple of harrumphs and one stern gaze over a pair of half-moon spectacles. Then an elderly fellow shuffled forward. We exchanged tense salutations until he finally confessed, with great delicacy, that I was trespassing. He said he took a dim view of this insanity but remained to avail himself of the facilities and, most importantly, to facilitate swift improvement. May he succeed.

INSIDE SECTION 2
All change at Piccadilly: the Royal Academy reveals bold plans for expansion
Page 33

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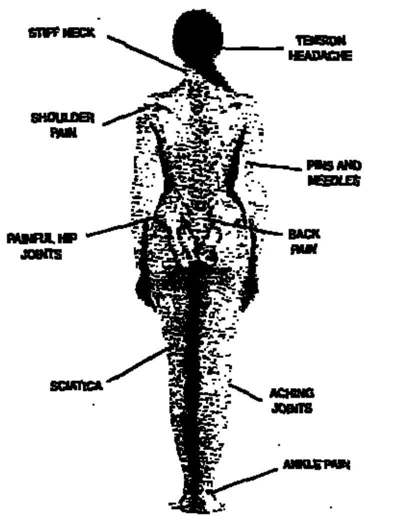

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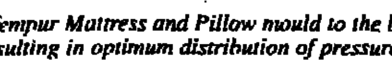

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مكتبة الأهرام

Why Blair is no heir to Thatcher

David Willetts says Labour's real stakeholders would be the unions

Margaret Thatcher's speech tonight is a lecture in memory of Keith Joseph. That simple fact may be the event's most important political message. Keith Joseph showed that ideas matter in politics. The reason the Tory party has won elections is that it has won arguments. The ideas which Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph developed after they set up the Centre for Policy Studies in 1975 are as relevant now as they were then. Freedom, enterprise and ownership remain the Tories' big idea.

The market economy is ceasing to be the exclusive inheritance of a few Western countries and is increasingly enjoyed across the world. That is the challenge which John Major asks us to face. It is why we must make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe.

Labour's problem is very simple: it does not have a Keith Joseph. Its gurus are not thinkers but spin-doctors. They trade not in ideas but in sound-bites. They have not succeeded in working out a significant new left-of-centre alternative to modern Conservatism, and perhaps they never will.

We are told now that they have a big new idea, the stakeholder. But that idea has a history. The language of stakeholders was developed by thinkers on the Left who didn't like what we Tories did in the 1980s. It does not venture into an exciting new territory beyond modern Conservatism. It is an idea from European social democracy *circa* 1980: the sort of thing that Sweden, France and Germany are now beginning to abandon, but which counts as modern in today's Labour Party.

Instead of real property rights, which give people genuine freedom and independence, stakeholding advocates legislative intervention by politicians. Shareholders' rights are thought to be somehow rather old-fashioned and backward-looking. Labour's proposed windfall tax on the utilities rests on this view of the world: it is a direct attack on the value of shares held by millions of small investors.

Of course any well-run business is going to want to look *after its customers and its* workforce as well as its shareholders. But we must let companies be as free as possible to work out their own way of satisfying these stakeholders. When the term is taken over as part of a political programme, it has a very different meaning. The idea is that companies must be forced to achieve social objectives for the community, as specified by politicians. This is where the European social chapter and the minimum wage fit in. The combined effect of these two policies is to produce youth unemployment of 26 per cent in France and 44 per cent in Spain.

Labour's approach to policy has always been to try to appeal to every interest group. The traditional way of doing so has been through higher public expenditure, and the party certainly hasn't abandoned its instinctive belief that every problem can be solved by "more resources". But it has found a second way of appealing to interest groups: by telling them tey can be stakeholders. This has the advantage that the economic cost doesn't count as part of public expenditure; government can simply impose a new obligation on businesses to do what *it wants them to.*

This is taxation by the back door, and just as economically damaging as conventional taxation, though more easily disguised from the electorate. But businessmen can feel it. For every £100 spent on wages, an employer in Britain has to add an extra £18 for non-wage costs. In Germany, an employer would have to add £32; in Spain, £34; and in France, £41. That's where the rhetoric about stakeholders would take us.

Governments would face a new set of claims for favours, in the guise of bids to become recognised as stakeholders. Whose stakes would be protected by a Cabinet in which every single member was sponsored by a trade union? John Prescott and Margaret Beckett want to get rid of all trade union legislation. Who do *they* regard as the crucial stakeholders in British industry? What does Glenda Jackson's campaign against rail privatisation, backed by the rail unions, tell us about who *she* regards as the main stakeholders in the railways?

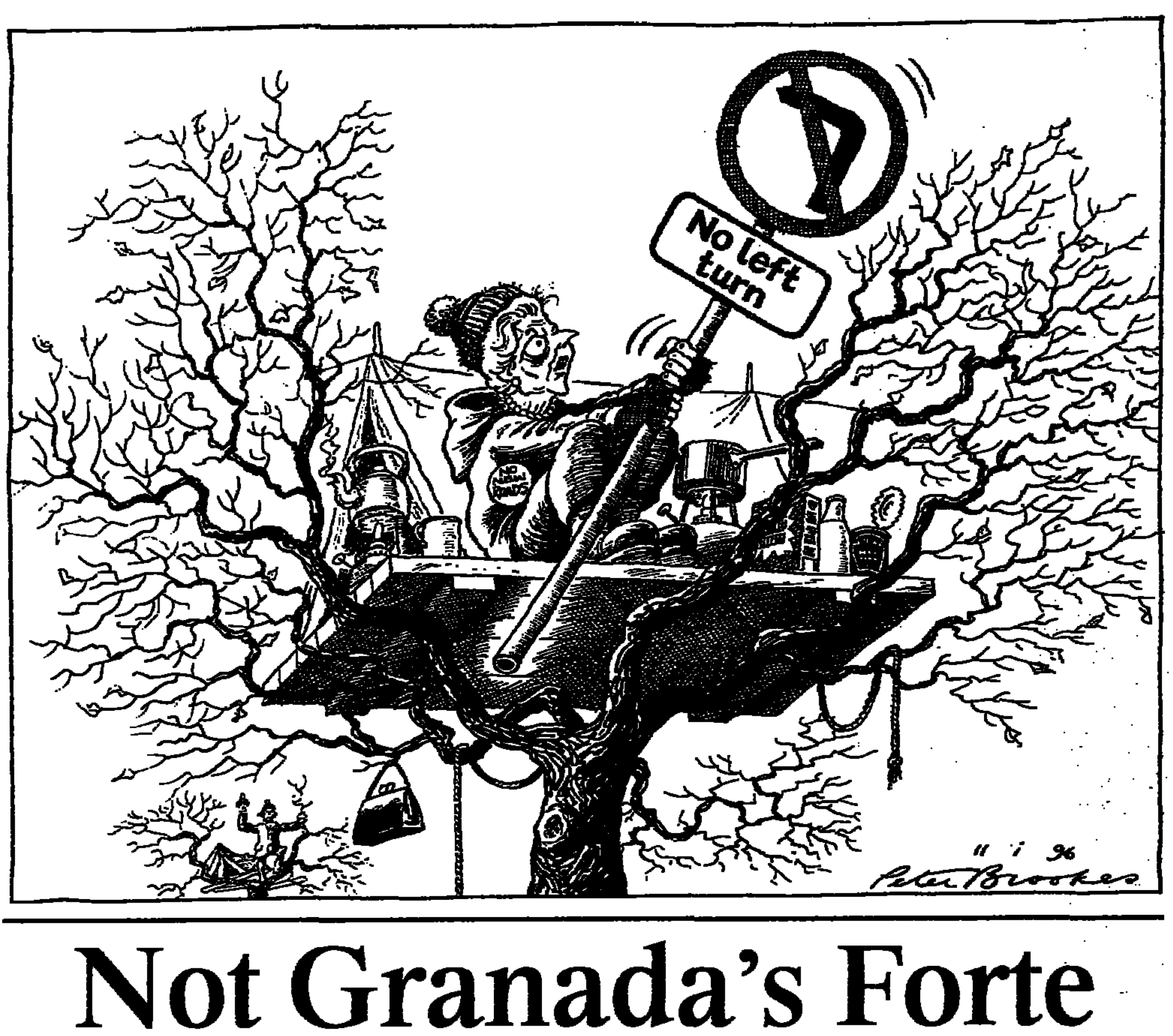
> Big government is still the true enemy

These are the old vested interests, dressed up in the latest language of corporate strategy. If I were running a successful firm, trying taking account of the interests of employees, customers and shareholders, I would be terrified about a Labour government taking the language of stakeholders and using it for its own purposes.

Now Tony Blair has the gall to call this a commitment to "One Nation". True One Nation Conservatism — that of Angus Maude and Enoch Powell, as well as Ian Macleod and Reginald Maudling — was a recognition that the only way to sustain one nation was not to have governments picking and choosing between conflicting claims on resources. That just ends up as a Hobbesian war of all against all, fought through the political process.

In a pamphlet, these Conservatives wrote: "Economic change is the normal environment in which nations live, and successful adjustment to it is a condition of their wellbeing. In six years of war and six of socialism, this important truth was dangerously obscured and overlaid." They saw that intrusive government was a threat to both prosperity and social cohesion. That remains true, even if believers in big government now dress it up in the language of the stakeholder.

David Willetts MP is Parliamentary Secretary at the Office of Public Service. He was director of the Centre for Policy Studies, 1987-92.



Not Granada's Forte

Gerry Robinson's bid for the hotel chain would create an unwieldy group

William Rees-Mogg

In the late 1980s I was chairman of the publishers Sidgwick & Jackson, which was then owned by Forte. My experience was that Forte was a very well run company, with a deep hotel culture in the family and the management. Because I enjoyed working with them, I have a natural prejudice in their favour. I have, however, a much stronger reason for being uneasy about the Granada bid.

I have come to have a complete distrust for the modern bid culture of the City. It is far too much driven by exorbitant fees which enrich banks and brokers at the expense of shareholders. It is more concerned with financial engineering than industrial logic. It imposes short-term views on British business. It is strongly influenced by personal vanity. It's most characteristic product has been the unwieldy and illogical conglomerate, usually with high debt; the investment performance of these companies has been disappointing.

The Granada bid for Forte is a characteristic example of this bid culture. As "Lex" said in yesterday's *Financial Times*: "Granada's fight for Forte carries a whiff of the asset-stripping 1980s." The fees are already enormous, and by the time Granada has made its proposed £2 billion of asset sales, the fees will be much, much larger. The whole of the industrial case has already been changed in the course of the bid. In its *first offer of November 24, Granada* promised to "capitalise decisively on the Meridien brand"; in the second offer, of January 9, Granada promised to sell Meridien. An industrial logic which was seriously intended would not have been turned on its head in the course of six weeks.

Personal vanity has been noticeable in some of Gerry Robinson's statements to the press. He is touted as some sort of miracle manager. In the past 40 years I have seen only too many miracle managers come and go. There are indeed good and bad managers, and there are good managers who seize an opportunity, or hit a lucky streak. But the great majority of miracle managers cannot sustain the miraculous performance.

In its second offer, Granada boasts about its management skills, in terms which would be laughable if they were not taken seriously in the City. "Granada's strategy is firmly based on two parallel themes which are at the heart of the Group's success — *Focus* and *Breadth*." Apart from the opacity and confusion of the metaphors, this seems to be a contradiction in terms. To *focus* means to concentrate the attention, *breadth* means spreading out. Granada is like a supermodel saying that her career "is based on two parallel themes which are at the heart of my success — *Thinness* and *Fatness*".

I discussed his concept of focusing with Mr Robinson over the telephone. He explained that one can focus managerial attention on different parts of a diverse business. That is what I have been hearing managers of conglomerates say for 40 years. Most of them have long since retired. So have some of the conglomerates.

If Granada's bid is successful, it will take a deep bath of debt. Before the assets sales can be started, the debt will rise to between £3 billion and £4 billion, resting on businesses which have considerable exposure to recession. Granada was originally successful as a television business. It now covers television, including an investment in BSkyB, rental and catering. It *proposes to extend into* hotels. The offer documents explain that this gives "Breadth across a range of related core businesses, to minimise risks to shareholders from a downturn in any core market". This again is nonsense. The proposed core businesses are not related, but random. There is no logical connection between catering and television rentals, or between hotels and an investment in BSkyB. The one possible connection is that most of these businesses could be hit by a recession at the same time. Hotel occupancy rates, hotel asset values and advertising sales all suffered together in the last recession.

The Forte proposal, by contrast, is what Sir James Goldsmith called "unbundling". It would leave a relatively well defined hotel group, would help Whitbreads to develop a similarly defined catering group, and would leave Granada to run its existing businesses. The proposed Forte disposals do therefore have a management logic. Granada spends its time claiming to be the better manager, but the management logic of its proposal is much weaker. It would bundle everything up, take on a vast load of debt, and then sell off half the Forte assets it had bought, pay off some of the debt and still be left with a mish-mash of assets to manage. Even its own supporters envisage an eventual Granada unbundling to separate television and catering, perhaps in 18 months time. This is an extraordinarily roundabout way of restructuring Granada, which would involve high fees at every stage.

The post-war history of the bid culture is not reassuring. The classic case was Siegmund Warburg's brilliant campaign in 1958 to buy British Aluminium. The bankers Helbert Wagg were Warburg's partners; they acted for Tube Investments and Warburg's for Reynolds Metals. Michael Verey of Helbert Wagg has commented: "It didn't emerge for years that the fight was a very expensive one for the client. In fact Siegmund gave Reynolds poor advice. British Aluminium was not worth it at that price." That bid helped to make Warburg's the leading merchant bank in London: in bid battles, what is good for the banker is not necessarily good for the client.

There is always risk in what Granada is proposing, taking on an enormous debt with a view to future asset sales. In 1988, I remember meeting Robert Maxwell at a reception. He had just bought the American Macmillan. I said that people thought he had paid too much. He looked rather sheepish, unusually for him, but said he would sell this and sell that, and end up with prize assets at low costs. "You know me: I never pay too much." In the event the recession came on before he could make the sales. That was the deal which finished him. More or less the same thing happened to Jim Slater, an exceptionally intelligent financier. He knew that he had to get back into cash in 1973, but found that the 1974 recession had overtaken him. He had to sell the assets he would have liked to keep, because they were the only assets that could be sold. Slater Walker was kaput.

I do not think we are in that stage of the cycle now, or that the next recession is particularly likely to catch out Mr Robinson. On the other hand, Siegmund Warburg paid too much, Robert Maxwell was ruined, and Jim Slater got his timing wrong. Trafalgar House has not been a very good investment recently. Highly geared conglomerates often work well enough at the beginning, and go to a premium, but they usually end in tears, and go to a discount. Mr Robinson should remember three long-established principles. There is always an opportunity cost in debt exposure. There is always a time-lag between the decision to sell and the actual realisation of sales. And there is always a risk the market will turn before the sales can be made.

The City of London is a great institution, but it has one great weakness of character. It is always looking for easy money. Lloyd's names thought they had found a way to make easy money; they found out they were wrong. Barings thought it had a money-machine in Singapore; it found out it was wrong. Since the 1950s, the City has repeatedly found easy money in corporate finance, often involving the creation of speculative conglomerates, with the recurrent exposure to excessive debt. Some of these have crashed, some have limped along, only a few have been highly profitable in the longer term. There has been no penalty for the bankers or brokers who promoted them, but their managers have usually had meteoric careers ending in splashdown, and their investors, including institutional investors, have often come to regret their enthusiasm.

The City has a very short memory; it fails to balance yesterday's disasters against tomorrow's fees. Perhaps Mr Robinson really is the star manager of his generation, but probably not. He would not be making such a muddled bid if he really were that good. I agree with what he is quoted as saying in Ruth Tait's *Roads to the Top*. "I have a simple belief that if you get to the stage where you are panicking and think that you have to acquire something to achieve growth, you're in deep trouble because you make silly acquisitions."

Russia's ancient enemy

Thomas de Waal on Yeltsin and the Chechens

Just over 150 years ago, in September 1845, the British Consul to Odessa, James Yeames, wrote a long report on the latest offensive in Chechenia. "No previous expedition into the same country was ever more disastrous, by loss of life and other sacrifices than the last; nor more entirely fruitless in its results," he wrote, adding that Count Mikhail Vorontsov, a general who had successfully fought Napoleon, was now bogged down against the Chechens.

Plus ça change. In 1996, the Chechen conflict seems to have turned into one of those wars in which everyone loses. The Russians are as stuck in Chechenia as they were 15 years ago in Afghanistan, with the unpleasant difference that it is supposed to be part of their own territory. Most ordinary Chechens are heartily sick of the Russians and want them out.

Tuesday's raid on Kizlyar is a sign that the rebels can still, at a stroke, take the war to enemy territory with the kind of action which will never win them the war, but will give President Yeltsin sleepless nights.

The Kizlyar raid is the grandson of an old Chechen tactic. The Chechens, the most dashing horsemen of the Caucasus and the most famous cattle-rustlers, were famous in tsarist times for their lightning raids, known as *nabegi*. A 19th-century chronicler of the Caucasus, Sergei Bronevsky, describes how a group of 20 horsemen would swim across the River Terek, hide among the boulders and then leap out on unsuspecting locals and take them hostage. "They are so possessed with ferocity that they spare no one," he wrote.

The Russians built the fortress of Kizlyar on the banks of the Terek in 1735, and it has been a target for *nabegi* ever since. Alexandre Dumas began his travels through the Caucasus in 1858 there, and his description of the town would strike chords with any visitor to Chechenia today. He stayed in an unfurnished house (the chief of police later sent round some furniture on a cart) and the 15-year-old boy who welcomed him wore a gun and dagger in his belt. His seven-year-old brother had a dagger as tall as himself.

Chechenia today is just as tense and divided as it was in Dumas's time. The Russians have control of Grozny and the oil pipeline, and have installed a friendly Government in the republic. But Grozny is in ruins, and much of the population is still living in cellars and basements and in fear of the bullets of drunken Russian soldiers.

The rebel Chechens, under the old President, Dzhokhar Dudayev, are still at large in the hills, and more than a year after 40,000 troops were sent to finish them off, they are still resisting. Last autumn I took tea with General Dudayev's Vice-President in a house only a mile from a Russian checkpoint. The separatists may be fighting on, but they will have to face the fact that they have lost their capital and two-thirds of the republic.

The hostility between Chechen fighters and Russian soldiers is probably as intense now as it was in the 1850s. This is a clash of two almost irreconcilable cultures, that of the Slav Russians and that of the mountain Chechens, who have never accepted Russian rule.

But it would also be a mistake to romanticise the Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, and the men who carried out the Kizlyar raid. Rather than romantic heroes, they are players in a dirty post-Soviet game. In their hands, the Chechen cause has become a long feast of violence.

General Dudayev spent his career in the Soviet air force, and did not even live in Chechenia until he returned to be elected President. He promised the Chechens a mirage-like "independence" that was never economically practicable, and yet kept up links with Russian officials and friends in the old Soviet air force, giving them a cut of Chechenia's black market wealth. After last July's ceasefire, the general had a very good opportunity to sign a political agreement with the Russians, but he refused.

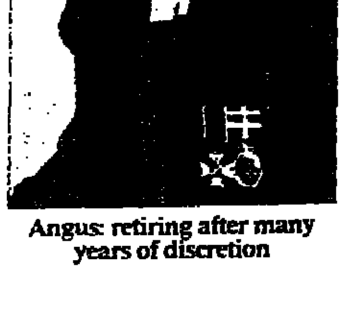
The raids on Budennovsk and Kizlyar — when the fighters began by attacking military bases and ended up using hospital patients and children as human shields — show how debased the myth of Chechen gallantry has become. But if for the rebel Chechens even a defeat carries a kind of glory, the real loser of this war is Boris Yeltsin. Even Russian officials are now putting the civilian death count at 20,000. Yeltsin cuts a poor figure as the defender of Russia's interests, because it is clear that he had many other options when he chose to send in troops in December 1994. The whole episode smelt sharply of political adventurism.

Yeltsin has called the Chechen war "the biggest disappointment" of his presidency. It may well turn out to be its death blow. Whether he seeks peace or escalates the war, the bloodshed will continue. Boris Yeltsin, the man who defeated Communism, had probably never heard of the Chechen quagmire that stopped Count Vorontsov, the man who helped vanquish Napoleon. If only he had read his history books.

Firm friend

THE QUEEN is losing one of her most loyal servants. Today, the Rev Keith Angus, her domestic chaplain in Scotland, announces his retirement at the worthy age of 66, after 17 years at Crathie Parish Church on Royal Deeside.

The reverend refuses to talk about his lengthy association with the Royal Family — Crathie is Balmoral's local church. But the height of his involvement came when he officiated at the wedding of the Princess Royal to Commander Tim Laurence.



Angus: retiring after many years of discretion

Mr Angus says that he will miss ministering to his parishes of Braemar and Crathie, their combined population of 600 and 400 square miles of the most spectacular scenery in the British Isles. Only a few years ago, he was to be found on Saturdays hunting and shooting in the hills in his gaiters. "I don't do that any more," he says. "I can't manage the hills any more."

In retirement, at least, he will no longer be harassed by the press. "I have been beleaguered by everybody," he explains. "But I never speak about the Royal Family."

The sole nominee to succeed him — in a post which involves regular summer barbecues with the Royal Family — is the Rev Robert Sloan from Perth, who will preach this Sunday at Crathie, the hilltop church overlooking Balmoral.

● *The Prime Minister wasn't pulling any electoral punches at his breakfast for businessmen yesterday at the Hyde Park Hotel. "One thing I have in common with Tony Blair," he joshed, "— I don't invite John Prescott to meetings either."*

THE TIMES DIARY

Pink blues

DOMESTIC problems face Her Benign Pinkness, Dame Barbara Cartland. Her housekeeper is retiring at the age of 84, and the situation has become vacant. Prospective employees must enjoy her colour schemes and her Pekineses.

"My housekeeper has been given doctor's orders to retire," says Dame Barbara, "but I have got advertisements for a replacement in all the local papers."

Explaining why she herself is still going strong at 94 while her help has retired as a comparative youth, she says: "You see, I have never had to scrub floors."

● *With the blizzards in America, British diplomatic activity has been scaled down. Tuesday's telegram to the Foreign Office from our man in Washington, Sir John Kerr, was brief: "There's a blizzard in Washington. The Federal Government has shut down. This Embassy is emulating King Wenceslas."*

Bottoms down

THE Royal Opera House has been a little too risque for its own good. It has withdrawn a marketing card advertising Sir Michael Tippett's opera, *The Midsummer Marriage*, because it features bare bottoms.

Henceforth, the posterior view of a nude couple holding hands will be more modest. Keith Cooper, the director of corporate affairs, denies that there were objections to bare buttocks, but says, "It is hard to get the image right, and when we consulted with the director and the designer, we decided to change it."

VENABLES TO RESIGN DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT
Pugh

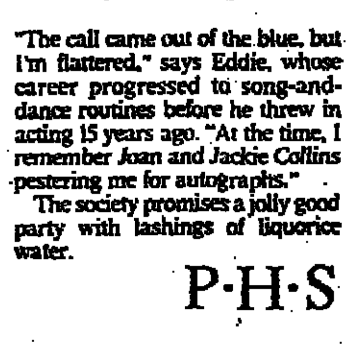
"It's never worried anyone in the Government"

● *As the Oscar season reels round again, the Academy has declared that studios must no longer bombard voters with expensive keepsakes to try to influence decisions. But the ban does not stretch to videotapes of films, and the marketing men have been working overtime. Tapes of Tim Robbins's flick about death row,* Dead Man Walking, *arrive in coffins.*

Just him

GOBSTOPPERS all round. The Just William Society has unearthed the young boy who played William in two films based on Richmal Crompton's books, made just after the war.

Eddie Graham, now a 64-year-old grandfather, responded to a nationwide call by the society from behind his sweet counter at the shop in Taplow that he manages.



The real William

"The call came out of the blue, but I'm flattered," says Eddie, whose career progressed to song-and-dance routines before he threw in acting 15 years ago. "At the time, I remember Joan and Jackie Collins pestering me for autographs."

The society promises a jolly good party with lashings of liquorice water.

P·H·S

RED WATER

Major begins to dust down his soapbox

In the dim light of damp January, the topography of the electoral battleground has fast emerged, with enterprise and welfare as its landmarks. John Major now believes he has the enemy's measure. His central line of attack will be that, however far the policy detail of Tony Blair's "stakeholder" society is from being fleshed out, the idea itself is enough to open "red water" between the two parties. Mr Blair's vision, he says, goes far beyond giving free market capitalism a human face. It contains at its core an interventionist philosophy that stands in distinctive opposition to Tory beliefs in individual choice and Tory attitudes to the proper relationship between government and business.

At a breakfast for businessmen at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday, Mr Major indicated the positions from which he plans to order out his formations. There was the expected listing of Tory achievements — inflation "under more secure lock and key than we have known in my political lifetime", falling unemployment and the boast that more of the adult population are now in work than in Germany. He held out the prospect that this year will see a real revival in disposable incomes and almost pleaded with his audience to act on his passionate conviction that the recession is squarely over.

There was the equally to be expected don't-let-Labour-ruin-it theme, as he presented Mr Blair's putative cabinet as a gallery of rogues, untrustworthy on inflation and soft on crime, the trade unions and defence of British interests in Europe. A vote for Labour would be playing "Russian roulette with all the barrels loaded".

Mr Blair's stakeholder speech, he argued, exposed "the tip of a plan" to impose new burdens on business which could not be benign in their impact, however skilfully they were packaged for sale. He gave one overriding reason: that they would make it more expensive to hire people. On companies, rather than the Exchequer, would fall the costs of Labour plans for corporate training levies, a minimum wage and, potentially, an unstoppable string of direct debits arising from Labour's commitment to end Britain's opt-out from the European social chapter.

In his speech last November to the Confederation of British Industry, the Labour leader went to great lengths to persuade his audience that ending the opt-out contained no risk that "inefficient practices" would be imported to Britain from the Continent. Although he notably failed to explain just how this was to be done, since much social chapter legislation is decided by qualified majority voting, Britain could, he said, avoid being bound by directives it disagreed with. Many businessmen have since been further lulled into the belief that there is little more to the social chapter than is contained in good corporate practice.

Yesterday Mr Major argued, correctly, that this is a dangerous illusion. Business, he said, should look not just at what is in the social chapter now, but at what it could contain in future. The aim of Britain's European partners was to incorporate their domestic social legislation into the social chapter, with the express aim of eliminating the competitive advantages of lower-cost countries — such as this one. Without the opt-out, labour costs would inescapably rise in Britain, where the non-wage element of the payroll is 18 per cent, compared with 32 per cent in Germany and over 40 per cent in France and Italy. Because the losers would be people not in work, this was not just economically wrong: it would be "plain immoral".

Mr Major is staking his chances on an intuition that between now and the next election, voters will see and recoil from the regulatory fist inside Labour's velvet glove. These are good, but difficult, arguments. Tory politicians are not the most trusted arguers in this regard. They will not easily triumph over the image of social cohesion and common effort that Mr Blair summons with such ease. Mr Major knows it. The Hyde Park Hotel is not Hyde Park; but there was at least a metaphorical soapbox in evidence yesterday morning.

ALL GREEK

Andreas Papandreou returns to play another set

The political drama now being played in Athens could be defined by using none but English words borrowed from Greek: the hysteria surrounding the illness of Andreas Papandreou shows only the Prime Minister's mania for control, his paranoia and hubris, the charisma he still projects over his nation and the catharsis his political opponents are attempting to bring about with a parliamentary motion of no-confidence. The long-term outcome remains an enigma.

In itself the news that Mr Papandreou is recovering after lying ill for so long is, of course, welcome. The man who has dominated Greek politics for a generation was said yesterday to have taken a few steps in his private ward. Less welcome was the news that his wife Mimi, with virtually sole access to the stricken politician, used this fact to insist that he had no intention of stepping down. Her unspoken threat is that he will soon recover sufficient strength to deal with those turbulent lieutenants who have had the temerity to call for his resignation.

The prospect of the avenging leader returning to full power is extremely unlikely. But it has been enough to cower senior Pasok officials and paint any moves within the party for a leadership contest as treason. Indeed, Mr Papandreou's spokesman recently suggested that any move to replace the Prime Minister would be unconstitutional. He was, unfortunately, right: under Greek law the Prime Minister can be replaced only if he is "not present" — a bizarre definition that covers both his death and his resignation. The two leading contenders for his job have thus attempted to stir a party revolt that would make him resign.

Costas Simitis, a leading internationalist in the reforming wing of the party, and Gerassimos Arsenis, the Defence Minister, both recognise the damage the power vacuum is causing. They have already cast caution aside and called for his resignation. But they may not sway their colleagues. Although even senior ministers such as Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister, acknowledge that Greece is drifting, they fear to take a step that the Greek public, sentimentally attached to a man who triumphed over political scandal, marital discord and physical illness, might see as opportunist ingratitude.

They may also fail because of the attempt by the opposition New Democracy to force the issue with a parliamentary vote. The result has been to unite Pasok. But in the final act, it may well turn out that Mr Papandreou, the founder of Pasok, destroys, unwittingly, the political vehicle he created. It appears that no one has dared tell him the real state of the party and country. His wife, still with delusions of political influence, has blocked any suggestion of resignation. Only his son George, a junior education minister, has promised to speak to his father frankly. He should advise him to resign forthwith. Mr Papandreou, in health, damaged his country's standing; in sickness he should not be permitted to damage it further.

AGELESS THROUGH THE AGES

How we may laugh at Adam's ancient curse

Old age is man's common enemy — and woman's too. But, because we are living longer and feel increasingly vulnerable to the pains, expense, loneliness and fears of growing old, age is our contemporary bugaboo. The battle against aging is for us what survival was for our rude forefathers, justification for our puritan grandfathers, and respectability and inheritance for our ambitious fathers. That is why *The Times* exploration of ageless ageing this week has hit so many funny-bones so sharply.

Some people have told us that they felt guilty about being so interested in what our *Times* doctor, Thomas Stuttaford, and our other writers have written on this subject. Take heart. These hopes and fears have been here before, not perhaps in quite the same way but with us nonetheless. From Rembrandt's self-portraits to all sorts of literature ancient and modern, ageless aging is an archetype.

The traditional tragedy of age is not that one is old but that one is still young in a decaying body. Growing up is recognising that one's parents may be as young and silly as oneself — allowing, of course, for their age. From the ancient patriarchs to the American billionaire who is today funding research to make him live for ever, men have fussed about growing old.

By taking constant vitamin C, Linus Pauling survived to 93. From Dr Stuttaford's prescriptions of hormone replacement therapy to the buttery diet of our Science Editor, there are many roads to mitigating age. The topic has exercised poets from the author of *Ecclesiastes*, "when the grinders cease from grinding", to Shakespeare, whose sonnets are obsessed with the subject. "Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang" may be the most beautiful line in poetry. But it also describes the ageing process in man, who arranges hairs across his bald patch to pretend this is not happening to him.

As usual, sex rears its head in such elderly introspection. Therapists such as Alan Coren have their potent panaceas. King Solomon and King David led merry, merry lives, with very many concubines, and very many wives — until old age came creeping, with very many qualms. Then Solomon wrote the *Proverbs*, and David wrote the *Psalms*. For our cult of youth is not a modern curse. Someone asked Sophocles in extreme old age how he felt about sex. The first tragedian to understand women replied: "Shut up, dear boy. I am delighted to be rid of all that, as though I had escaped from a mad and savage master."

In our own world of ageless ageing, anyone over 90 is the outpost sentry. And the young folks of 60 feel that the enemy must creep by him before he can come near their camp. Obituaries replace births and marriages as the most popular sections in newspapers for those for whom the years are slipping by. Postumus. Postumus. They gratify the competitive spirit. Those who keep their eyes looking out at the world and their minds busy stay younger than those putting on masks of cosmetic surgery. We might as well enjoy old age. It is generally better than the alternative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Doubts on method of BBC selection

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, Once again, the appointment of a new Chairman of the BBC has been made by the Prime Minister of the day (reports, January 10). As the new Charter of the BBC is about to be endorsed by Parliament, it is time to change this anachronism.

May I suggest that a committee of senior Privy Councillors should be empowered to see a list of suitable candidates and in this way ensure that the choice is not left entirely to the government of the day.

Sir Christopher Bland has many qualities to commend him as the new Chairman of the BBC, but I think it would have been more reassuring to all licence payers had his appointment been made by a small group representing all parties.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOX
(Managing Director,
BBC Television 1988-91),
Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2.
January 10.

Courts-martial defects

From Mr John Mackenzie

Sir, I am the solicitor with the conduct of ex-Lance Sergeant Alexander Findlay's application to the European Court of Human Rights (report, December 19; letters, December 28, January 3). I also have the conduct of a number of other applications arising from Army and Royal Navy courts martial.

I constantly hear the claim that the courts-martial system is fair. I also hear the contrary claim. These claims are highly subjective. The case law of the European court has laid down objective standards for a court to comply with the Convention on Human Rights. They seem entirely apposite. The British courts-martial system fails to comply with them.

The most important requirement under Article 6(1) of the convention is that a court should be seen to be wholly independent of the parties. In all three Services a court martial is an *ad hoc* tribunal set up by a "convening officer" who both appoints its members and is the prosecuting authority.

In a Royal Navy court martial the prosecuting arm even appoints the defence advocate, although some independent-minded defendants reject this representation and apply for legal aid for civilian representation. The application for legal aid is to the convening officer.

This fundamental objection to the system hides a multitude of further breaches, none of which are addressed by the current Armed Forces Bill. To do so the Bill would need to provide for a new structure of courts, with dedicated trained staff independent of the Services — clearly an absurdity.

The answer is simple and cheap. Most serious courts martial concern breaches of the civilian criminal code. Pass these cases to the Crown Courts and retain a system of low-level disciplinary tribunals for purely military offences.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MACKENZIE,
90a The Broadway,
Southall, Middlesex.
January 4.

Home-grown produce

From Mr Ian Merton

Sir, Your report of January 5, "Supermarkets 'damage British fruit growers'", fails to recognise Sainsbury's strenuous efforts to ensure a greater outlet for British produce in our supermarkets.

Over 500 British growers, large and small, have joined our Partnership in Produce scheme, which gives them a year-round market for their produce and helps them to extend their seasons, develop new markets and find new varieties of produce.

We sell some 40 varieties of English apples and pears during the season, the majority of soft fruits, lettuces, potatoes and tomatoes which we sell during the summer are UK-grown, and 90 per cent of our stocks of fresh produce that can be grown in this country come from the UK.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MERTON
(Director of Produce Buying),
J. Sainsbury plc,
Stamford House,
Stamford Street, SE1.
January 5.

Elephants in trouble

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, You report (December 29) that a British medical team is to travel to the Kiev Zoo to help an elephant with toothache, a mission for which contributors have supplied £9,500. Would that the contributors could supply similar funds to support elephant researchers in Africa, who sometimes can hardly afford to fill the petrol tanks of their field vehicles. Admirable as it is to assist an individual elephant, it is still more admirable to help an entire species.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS
(Consultant in Environment
and Development),
Green College, Oxford.
January 1.

Realities of a 'stakeholder' economy

From Mr Edgar Parnell

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Why Blair needs more time", January 8) asserts that a Blair-led government could come too soon. Surely the country cannot afford to wait for a genuine "stakeholder economy" (report, January 9) as now advocated by Blair.

Irrespective of which political party is in power, one of the greatest priorities has to be the elimination of adversarial relationships between the various "stakeholders" in our society and the achievement of a common purpose amongst diverse interest groups.

Economic activity is not to be left solely to investors. Businesses are needed to serve the needs of other stakeholder groups — consumers, the workforce, producers, or a specific community. Self-help will have to be given much more encouragement, especially now that both state and municipal forms of enterprise have been widely abandoned.

Irrespective of the ownership structure, all enterprises and the Government will have to achieve a much fairer balance in the allocation of benefits between the stakeholders involved.

Yours faithfully,
E. PARNELL (Director),
Plunkett Foundation,
23 Hanborough Business Park,
Long Hanborough, Oxford.
January 9.

From Mr Stephen Shaw

Sir, It may be that my memory is flawed, but was it not Margaret Thatcher who promoted the concept that all citizens should have a stake in the nation's wealth, be it through property or share ownership?

Perhaps there are distinctions yet to be explained, but at first sight the "stakeholder economy" seems to be less new Labour than a repackaging of new Conservativism.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Lamb Chambers,
Lamb Building, Temple, EC4.

From Mr Len Webster

Sir, Despite his "whizz-kid" image, Tony Blair seems to be something of a slow learner. The essence of the Singapore Central Provident Fund (letters, January 5) lies firmly in the Singapore Government's commitment to the Singapore dollar. The people of that country have been able to entrust their money to a government which has been successful in maintaining its value.

By contrast, the disastrous decline of sterling over the past 30 years shows that neither the Tory party nor Labour has been able to produce strong, firm government. Britain's decline can easily be seen in its currency: in 1984, £1 was equal to S$3.40, but today it buys S$2.20; 25 years ago, £1 was equal to US$2.40 but today — against a *weak* US dollar — £1 is equal to about US$1.52.

So much money has been taken from the wage-packets of the British people and wasted that the British Government can no longer meet its social contract, to repay that money in the form of pensions that keep up with the real rate of inflation. Switching to a central provident fund taking 22 per cent or more from income merely provides that much more opportunity for government to behave incompetently.

We can have no more faith in Tony Blair than we can in the current Government. What Britain needs is radical change, honesty and realism, not fairy tales.

Yours faithfully,
LEN WEBSTER,
48 Marshall Road,
Oldbury, West Midlands.
January 8.

From Mr Victor Black

Sir, In your main political articles today William Rees-Mogg ("Tactics aren't enough to run the country") tells us that John Major is no good and advises him to say "goodbye", and Peter Riddell ("Why Blair needs more time") tells us that Tony Blair is not ready to govern.

Could this be the beginning of a campaign to support Paddy Ashdown?

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR BLACK,
Lower Farm House,
Coln Rogers,
Gloucestershire.
January 8.

Electorate's choice

From Mr Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North (Conservative)

Sir, The European single currency may or may not be economically beneficial. Its purpose, however, is political: the establishment of a single European State. Anyone who is in any doubt should ask Chancellor Kohl, whose ambition it is to do for Europe what Bismarck did for Germany.

Many commentators now discern little difference in domestic policy between Labour and Conservative. The difference is elsewhere — between those who would risk Britain's future as an assortment of client provinces of Berlin or Brussels, and those who are determined to maintain and extend our sovereign independence.

The electorate's choice of Members of Parliament at the next election will decide which historic alternative will be followed. Those interested in true democracy must see to it that the country is aware of the nature of the decision being taken and the position of each and every candidate on this supreme issue.

Yours faithfully,
TONY MARLOW,
House of Commons.
January 9.

No-fault divorce

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, The Family Law Bill — enshrining Lord Mackay's idea of no-fault divorce — reaches the Committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow; and the Government intends that the Commons will, in due course, have a free vote on the matter.

May I remind all Members of Parliament, as they search their consciences, of the opening words of the Roman Catholic bishops' statement, released on November 17, 1995:

> *We firmly believe and teach that marriage* is absolutely essential to the well-being of society ... marriage signifies and requires an irrevocable and exclusive commitment by a man and woman to a partnership of their whole life ... the marriage covenant has been raised by Christ the Lord to the *dignity of a sacrament.*

Nothing could be clearer than that, and one must hope that our legislators will take heed.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester SO22 4NF.
January 10.

Rubbishing Wakefield

From the Bishop of Wakefield and the Leader of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Sir, Claims by the Tidy Britain Group (report, January 5) that Wakefield is "the filthiest place in Britain" are quite simply rubbish.

The survey which casts such a blight on this fine northern city was, as the group has conceded, merely "a snapshot of one moment in time". We understand that it was based on a mere 15 minutes on three separate days last May.

Millions of pounds have been invested over the past three years in refurbishing the precinct of our splendid cathedral — an achievement recognised by an Arts Council award — and huge sums are spent annually to keep this showpiece clean and pleasant.

Litter education programmes are a priority, but given the tight restrictions on council spending, we must continue to allocate resources on a cure rather than prevention basis.

Yours etc,
†NIGEL WAKEFIELD,
COLIN L. CROXALL
(Leader, Wakefield Metropolitan
District Council),
Bishop's Lodge,
Woodthorpe Lane,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
January 8.

Facial disfigurement

From Ms M. K. Lacy

Sir, I was interested to read Veronica Kish's letter (January 2) about the stereotyping of facially disfigured people as villains in films such as *Goldeneye* and *Batman Forever*.

Not only films but advertisements, too, show discrimination towards those with unusual faces, an example being the current television advertisement by one drinks company.

To suggest that only beautiful people can drink their product, and that those who are not should have cosmetic surgery to transform them, is insensitive humour in the extreme.

Discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, sex or disability is now illegal. To see plain people as fair game for a giggle I, as one with a facial disfigurement, find quite unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,
M. K. LACY,
The Croft,
High Street, Farningham, Kent.
January 2.

Big freeze

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

Sir, When I was a lad milk was delivered in churns and served from one- or two-pint measuring jugs. Then came bottles and, with them, an unexpected delight. On a sharp frosty morning the frozen milk forced its way above the bottle top, could easily be eased out, and was a delicacy to be enjoyed — a forerunner of iced lollies.

No such thing these days despite the sharp frost so many of us have experienced. Among the many preservatives in milk do the authorities now insist on the addition of antifreeze?

Yours sincerely,
E. PHILIP SCHOFIELD,
Lantau, 8 Priory Close,
Penyffordd, Chester.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

To catch and cure the drink-driver

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, You report today strong criticism of the Court of Appeal's decision to quash a prison sentence imposed on a first-time drink-driver with a high alcohol reading. However, Mr Justice Sachs's judgment contains a key sentence: "There are other perfectly appropriate ways of dealing with people who drive with excess alcohol."

One such way includes courses for drunken drivers run by the probation service in many areas. These cover the medical, social and financial effects of drunken driving and its potential effect on accident victims and offenders' families. The aim is to help offenders to change their patterns of drinking.

Combined with a probation order and disqualification, these courses have proved an effective way of dealing with many drink-drivers, including repeat offenders and those with particularly high readings. The vast majority of offenders who attend them are not reconvicted of alcohol-related offences.

Unlike prison sentences, these methods increase public protection by helping offenders to become better and safer drivers by the time they get their licences back.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CAVADINO,
Chair,
Penal Affairs Consortium,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.
January 10.

From Professor K. T. V. Grattan

Sir, Whilst almost everyone will welcome the greater responsibility shown by motorists over drinking and driving, a closer inspection of the figures in your report on breath-test failures over the Christmas period (January 3) shows that when the available figures are viewed as a percentage of tests carried out, the rate varies from just over 1 per cent to about 8 per cent, averaging at about 4-5 per cent.

For the largest available single sample, from Scotland, the failure rate was just over 1 per cent of the 75,735 tests taken, implying a *pass rate* of nearly 99 per cent.

Surely such figures imply that the era of random testing has actually arrived, in spite of protestations to the contrary.

Yours faithfully,
K. T. V. GRATTAN,
City University,
School of Engineering,
Northampton Square, EC1.

Amplified opera

From the General Director of English National Opera

Sir, Following letters from Dr Max Prola (December 21), Mr Richard Fisher (December 26) and Mr Ralph Emery (January 3), deploring the sound enhancement used in English National Opera's current production of *La Belle Vivette* at the London Coliseum, may I quote from your review of the production published on December 27: "The spoken dialogue, discreetly amplified, is now audible ..."

I assure your correspondents and our audiences that ENO does not amplify singing or recitatives. Operetta demands the lightest of touches with the spoken word, however, and in a theatre the size of the London Coliseum, with almost 2,500 seats, discreet sound enhancement is being used in *La Belle Vivette* only for the dialogue, as has been the case in certain productions for quite a few years.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS MARKS, General Director,
English National Opera,
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2.

V & A funding

From Mr D. A. Callard

Sir, An entrance fee of £10 would be too much for many who might want to visit the V & A (article, Arts, January 8) but, while charging may not be a solution to its funding problems, as the Director, Alan Borg, claims, it could at least be part of the solution.

When I subsisted in Paris, all museums were free on a Thursday but charged on other days. Might not some variation of this (£1 entrance Thursday, £4 other weekdays, £6 weekends) be a compromise acceptable to all?

Yours sincerely,
D. A. CALLARD,
136 Johnston Road,
Llanishen, Cardiff.
January 8.

Post-turkey torture

From the Reverend Ivor E. L. Scott-Oldfield

Sir, The plight of Mrs Miller (letter, January 6), who found the Christmas presents she bought going for half-price on Boxing Day, brought back to me John Gilpin's comment on his wife "that, though on pleasure she was bent, she had a frugal mind".

Mrs Miller could, in future, have both the pleasure in giving, and the frugality of purchasing, presents by the simple expedient of celebrating the Epiphany rather than Christmas.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR SCOTT-OLDFIELD,
11e Prior Bolton Street, N1.
January 7.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 10: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended the London International Boat Show, *at Earls Court Exhibition Centre*, London SW5.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, *later received Lieutenant Colonel* Mark Jackson upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Mercer upon *assuming the appointment.*

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, was present *this evening* at a performance of "Manon" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as part of the Hamlyn Westminster Week.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Leeds Carers Centre, Leeming House, Vicar Lane, at 11.00; will attend a fund-raising luncheon at Direct Line House, The Headrow, Leeds, at 12.05; and will visit Shipley College, Exhibition Road, Saltaire, Shipley, at 2.10. Later, as Patron, Victim Support, will attend a *meeting of Victim Support* Merseyside branch, Parish Centre, St Nicholas Parish Church, Chapel Street, Liverpool, at 5.00, and, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a viewing of the film *Chariots of Fire* for the British Olympic Appeal at Liverpool Town Hall at 7.00.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

M François Mitterrand

A book of condolence on the death *of M François Mitterrand, former* President of France, has been opened at the French Embassy, 58 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7JT. Anyone wishing to sign is *invited* to do so on Thursday, January 11, and Friday, January 12, from 10am to 5pm.

Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG, will be held in the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, on Friday, March 1, 1996 at 2.30pm. Seats will be reserved for official representatives to whom tickets will be sent.

Church of Scotland

Translation
The Rev William B Ross from Findochty with Portknockie to Alvie & Insch

Retirements
The Rev J A Keith Angus from *Braemar with Crathie*
The Rev Thomas A Bertram from Patna Waterside
The Rev W J R Hay from Buchanan with Drymen
The Rev Joseph L Leckie from Fowlis Wester with Madderty with Monzie
The Rev Charles A Leggat from Craigiebank, Dundee
The Rev David W McCreadie from Kirkmabreck
The Rev Ian W Robertson from Colvend, Southwick and Kirkbean

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Il Parmigianino, painter, Parma, Italy, 1503; Alexander Hamilton, American statesman, Nevis, West Indies, 1755; Sir Charles Hastings, physician, founder of the British Medical Association, Ludlow, 1794; Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada 1867-73 and 1878-91, Glasgow, 1815; William James, psychologist, New York, 1842; George Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India 1898-1905, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, 1859; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, Ripon, Wisconsin, 1864; Alan Paton, writer, Pietermaritzburg, 1903.

DEATHS: *Domenico* Ghirlandajo, historian, London, 1494; Cardinal Pedro González de Mendoza, prelate and statesman, Spain, 1495; Sir Hans Sloane, *physician and collector, London,* 1753; Louis François Roubiliac, sculptor, London, 1762; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Venice, 1801; Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher *and* historian, Dresden, 1829; Francis Scott Key, poet, Baltimore, 1843; Georges Eugene Haussmann, architect who replanned Paris, Paris, 1891; Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, Dorchester, 1928; Caradoc Evans, writer, Aberystwyth, 1945; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1963; Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister *of India* 1964-66, Tashkent, 1966; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Chur, Switzerland, 1966; Richmal Crompton, author, 1969; Padraic Colum, poet, Enfield, Connecticut, 1972.

Charing Cross station was opened, London, 1864.

Insulin first used successfully in the treatment of diabetes, 1922.

King Zog of Albania was dethroned, 1946.

The Open University awarded its first degrees, 1973.

Dinners

Woolmen's Company
Mr Clifford S. Dennis, Master of the Woolmen's Company, presented the Woolmen's Company silver medal and prize to Dr Geraldine R. Rogers, from New Zealand, for her research work in wool at Leeds University, at a dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. Lord Carter was the guest of honour and Mr John E. Townend, MP, also spoke. Among others present were:

Professor C E R Maddox, Mr Edward Stanners, the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company and the Masters of the Clothworkers', Horners', the Merchants of the City of Edinburgh and the Merchant Taylors of the City of York Companies.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. The Hon Jonathon Porritt, Mr J.G. Speirs and Sir Crispin Tickell were the speakers.

Appointments

Mr Christopher Meyer to be Ambassador to Germany *in* succession to Sir Nigel Broomfield, who will retire from the Diplomatic Service early in 1977.

Mr Michael Jay to be Ambassador *to France in succession to Sir* Christopher Mallaby who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service in July.

Latest wills

Mr Nicholas Peter Val Fleming, of Nettlebed, Oxfordshire, the *author, journalist and farmer, son of* Peter Fleming and Celia Johnson, and nephew of Ian Fleming, left estate valued at £8,928,554 net.

Other estates include (net before *tax*):

Mr Geoffrey Harry Langdon Andrew, of Liverpool .... £2,088,322.

School announcements

Arnold School, Blackpool

The Centenary Spring term began on Thursday, January 4, and will end on Thursday, March 28. The Entrance Examinations will take place on Saturday, February 10, and the Scholarship Examination on Thursday, February 15.

This term's Centenary events include: the Reebok Rugby match — 1st XV v Stonyhurst on Wednesday, January 17; a Piano Recital by international celebrity and Old Arnoldian, David Wilde, at Lytham Hall on Saturday, January 27, with the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Sir Simon Towneley, as the Guest of Honour; the Prefects' Dinner at Lancaster Castle on Thursday, February 8; the Oxford and Cambridge Dinner in the Old Hall, Queens' College, Cambridge, on Saturday, February 17; the Junior School Football and Hockey Tournament on Saturday, March 2; the Senior Debate with Guest Speakers Michael Jack, MP, and Harold Elletson, MP, in the School Memorial Hall on Saturday, March 9; a Sportspersons' Dinner with Guest Speakers Sebastian Coe, OBE, MP, *and John Bevan (Wales* and British Lions) at the Winter Gardens on Friday, March 15; the CCF Inspection by the Duke of Westminster on Friday, March 22; the Girls' Seven-a-Side Hockey Tournament on Saturday, March 23; a School production of an Old Time Music Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 and 27, in the School Memorial Hall. During half-term (February 19-23) the junior rugby teams will tour in Ireland, Holland and Spain. The U16 Girls' Hockey Team (North of England Champions) will compete *in the All-England U16 National* Schools' Final on Wednesday, March 6. Miss Sally Marsden, LLB, *Mr Kevin Talbot* and *Mr* Keith Cartmell, LLB, are now members of the Governing Council. Mr *Jimmy* Armfield, Vice-Chairman of the Council, has been awarded an *honorary fellowship* by the University of Central Lancashire.

Arnold School is a registered charity which exists for the education of children.

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park

The School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary at Tring Park by way of a special reception for all former students and staff. This will be held *on Thursday*, February 1, 1996, at the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden. For details and tickets telephone the School on 01442 824255, by January 25.

Clifton High School, Bristol

Term started on Tuesday, January 9, with Victoria Barnard continuing as Head Girl. Entrance and Scholarship examinations for the Senior School will be held on Saturday, January 20, and for the Sixth Form on Tuesday, February 6. The Junior Department will stage *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* on March 26 and 27.

Culford School

The Spring Term began yesterday. The David Anderson Memorial Recital will be by The York Waits on February 4. The Choral Society Concert on March 17 will feature works by Haydn, Handel and Monteverdi. Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* will be *performed* on March 26-28. Term ends on March 29.

Dean Close School

The Lent Term begins today. Mr A.J. Reid begins his second term as successor to Mr B.K. Wilson as Second Master. Mark Pihlens is Captain of Hockey and Charlotte Moger will be the Captain of Netball. The Ninth Colin Sherratt Recital will be on January 23 and Open Day will be on February 3. The Music Scholarship Auditions will be held on February 8 and the Academic Scholarships from *March 4 to 6. The Under 15 girls'* hockey side will take part in the British Aerospace National Final on March 7. The Old Decanian Games' Day will be on March 22. *The Bishop of Gloucester will* conduct Confirmation on March 10 and term ends on March 27.

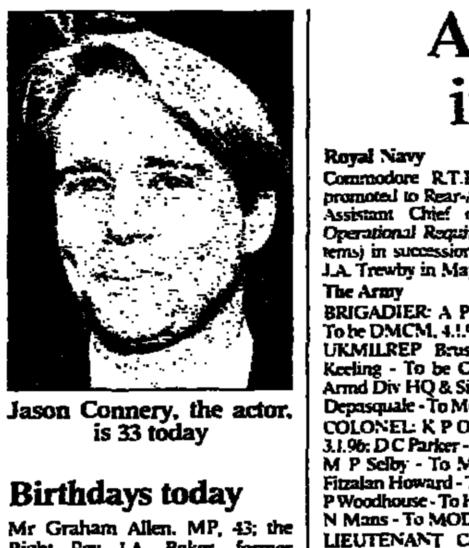
In the Michaelmas term, Mr Derek Howard-Orchard, the *Director of United Energy* plc, was the Guest of Honour at The Bollinger Club on November 27, chaired by Claudia Masterman. The Fourth Douglas Graham Lecture was given by *Mr John* Jennings, the Chairman of Shell Transport and Trading Company, and entitled 'The Oil Challenge'.

Harrogate Ladies' College

Harrogate Ladies' College opened for the Spring Term on January 9. Entrance tests for September *1996* take place on January 15. Dr Margaret Hustler, presently Headmistress of St Michael's School, Oxted, will take up her post as *Headmistress of Harrogate* Ladies' College on September 1, 1996. The Ski Trip to France will leave on February 9 and the History/French Study Tour to Normandy leaves on April 20. The Scottish Open Lacrosse Tournament is on February 24 and the *All England Schools' Lacrosse* Tournament is on March 5. St Michael's Hospice will hold a Cheese & Wine Evening in school on February 27. The Choir will perform *Handel's Messiah at St* Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, at 2.30pm on March 28. Half term is from February 10-18 and term ends on March 29.

Headington School, Oxford

Term began on January 10. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends is on Friday, January 26. The Under 14 and Under 16 Netball teams as County Champions and the Under 19 as runners up will take part in the South Tournament on Saturday, January 27. Entrance Examinations for LVI will take place on Monday, February 12. There will be a Careers Evening on Tuesday, February 13. The European Theatre Company will perform Ionesco's *La Leçon* on Monday, February 26. Lent talks will be given by Mrs Newton, Bloxham Project, Right Rev J.V. Taylor, Rev N. Brewin and Rev V. Slater. In the Lecture Series "Towards AD 2000" Dr Susan Greenfield will speak on "Exploring the Brain" on Thursday, March 7. The Boat Club will take part in the Schools Head on Friday, March 15. The Right Rev R. Harries, *Bishop of Oxford, will take* the School Confirmation on Sunday, March 17. The International Club Committee will produce *To Kill a Mocking Bird* on Thursday and *Friday, March 21 and 22. The* adjudicator in the House Music Competition on Tuesday, March 26, will be Peter O'Brien. Term ends on Wednesday, March 27. The Chamber Choir will be on tour in Venice from Thursday, March 28, until Monday, April 1.



Jason Connery, the actor, is 33 today

Birthdays today

Mr Graham Allen, MP, 43; the Right Rev J.A. Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 68; Mr J. Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon, 79; Sir Alan Bowness (life peer), 68; Sir Robin Catford, civil servant, 73; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, and Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 53; Mr Neville Duke, former test pilot, 74; Mr A.A. Gray, former chairman, Wellcome Foundation, 84; Mr Brian Moore, rugby player, 34; Sir Alastair Morton, chairman, Eurotunnel, 58; Lord Newton, 46; Sir Anthony Nutting, former MP, 76; Mr Jim Perris, Governor, Wormwood Scrubs, 54; *Mr Bryan Robson, footballer-manager*, 39; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, 68; Mr Arthur Scargill, trade unionist, 58; Mr John Sessions, actor and comedian, 43; *Air Commodore Joy* Tamblin, former director, WRAF, 70; Mr R.C. Tress, former Master, Birkbeck College, 81.

Lord-Lieutenant

The Earl of Scarbrough has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant *of South Yorkshire in succession to* Mr James Hugh Neill, who will retire on March 29.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
Commodore R.T.R. Phillips to be promoted to Rear-Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff *Operational Requirements (Sea Systems)* in succession to Rear-Admiral J.A. Trewby in May.

The Army
BRIGADIER: A P Grant Peterkin - To be DMCM, 4.1.96; A W Lyons - To UKMILREP Brussels, 8.1.96; J J Keeling - To be Comd Arty 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, 10.1.96; J F Depasquale - To Med Svcs (G), 9.1.96.

COLONEL: K P O'Kelly - To MOD, 3.1.96; D C Parker - To JHQ JT, 2.1.96; M P Selby - To MOD, 3.1.96; T M Fitzalan Howard - To MOD, 8.1.96; C P Woodhouse - To HQ Inf, 8.1.96; M F N Mans - To MOD, 8.1.96.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: R M Andrews AAC - To MOD, 2.1.96; *C D* McK Kemp R Signals - To R Sch Sigs, 3.1.96; P J J Kington R Signals - To MOD, 2.1.96; G R Leach R Signals - To be CO 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, 7.1.96; Sir Andrew Ogilvy - Wedderburn Bt BW - To CATC, 2.1.96; D E Rowlinson R Signals - To MOD, 2.1.96; I Waters AGC (Pro) - To HQ UKSC(G), 2.1.96; R I Webb-Bowen LD - To MOD, 2.1.96; K Best GH - To MOD, 8.1.96; I Foxley R Signals - To MOD, 8.1.96; A D Harking RE - To be CO 21 Engr Regt/7 HQ Sqn, 8.1.96; R R Jammes RA - To be CO 101 Regt RA, 8.1.96; R J Knight PWRR - To be CO 5 PWRR, 8.1.96, G Meikin R Signals - *To MOD, 8.1.96; P J Oldfield* R Signals - To be CO 30 Sig Regt, 8.1.96; J R W Pullinger Para - To LSP Angola, 8.1.96, J W R Thorne RE - To be CO RHQ 38 Engr Regt/32 HQ Sqn, 8.1.96; C W Owen Kings - To MOD, 8.1.96

Retirements
BRIGADIER: D H Roberts Late REME, 5.1.96; I Cameron RMP, 13.1.96.

COLONEL: R E *Potts* Late RADC, 31.12.95; J O Crosse Late RAMC, 4.1.96; P M Lear Late RAPC, 10.1.96.

Royal Air Force
Air Marshal Sir John Allison to be *promoted Air Chief Marshal and* to be Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Logistics Command/Air Member for Logistics from March 8 in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock.

Air Vice-Marshal G A Robertson *to be promoted Air Marshal and to* be Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief Strike Command from March 18 in succession to Air Marshal Sir John Allison.

Air Vice-Marshal P T Squire to be promoted Air Marshal and to be Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel) from February 9 in succession to Lieutenant General the *Hon Sir* Thomas Boyd-Carpenter.

Air Commodore Jon Ford to be chief of the Air Cadet Organisation in succession to Air Commodore Peter Stean who is retiring from the RAF.

Air Commodore P J Scott, Air Commodore J H Haines and Group Captain D M Jones to be ADCs to the Queen.

Air Commodore C J Sharples to be Honorary Physician to the Queen.

Air Commodore I G McIntyre to be Honorary Dental Surgeon to the Queen.

Appointments
AIR COMMODORE: A E Neal - HQ 18 GP, 5.1.96; J A F Ford - HQ UAC, 12.1.96; R V Morris - HQ AWC, 12.1.96.

GROUP CAPTAIN: G G Cullington - HQ No 11 Gp, 5.1.96.

WING COMMANDER: A R Hildage - RAF Rudloe Manor, 3.1.96; A T Smyth - RAF Kinloss, 8.1.96; N McGonigle - MOD, 8.1.96; P J Hibberd - Washington, 8.1.96; J M Cruickshank - HQ STC, 8.1.96; R M J Winning - HQ LC, 8.1.96; N R Chandler - HQ LC London, 8.1.96; A J R Davenport - ICAOC Kalkar, 8.1.96; *I B Gibb* - HQ LC London, 8.1.96; A T B Wilkinson - HQ LC Brampton, 8.1.96.

Retirements
GROUP CAPTAIN: A J Fairweather, 1.1.96; M J White, 2.1.96; C J Rowe, 11.1.96.

WING COMMANDER: R A Stanley, 8.1.96

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Canon Derek Brown, Priest-in-charge, Epworth: to be *also* Rural Dean of Axholme (Lincoln).

The Rev Andrew Coe, Assistant Priest, St Martin w St Andrew, Birmingham: to be Priest-in-charge, St Bernard, Hamstead (Birmingham).

The Rev Michael Goater, Vicar, St Augustine's, Endcliffe, Sheffield: to be *also* Assistant Post Ordination Training Officer (Sheffield).

The Rev Ronald Hart, Team Vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd, Aylesbury (Oxford): to be Rector, Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt St Katharine (Salisbury).

The Rev James Hawkins, Vicar, Bosbury w Wellington Heath (Hereford): to be Priest-in-charge, Ancaster Wilsford Group (Lincoln).

The Rev Angela Hughes, Assistant Curate, *Kidderminster St Mary* and All Saints w Trimpley, Franche, Broadwaters and Upper Arley (Worcester): to be Priest-in-charge, Gilmorton w Peatling *Parva and Kimcote cum* Walton (Leicester).

The Rev John Lowen, Chaplain in Prison Service: to be Priest-in-charge, Long Sutton (Lincoln).

The Rev Paul Luck: to be Assistant Priest, w responsibility for Holy Cross, Inns Court (Bristol).

The Rev Gillian MacKichan, NSM, Upper Kennet Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, Upper Kennet Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Anne McCormick, Assistant Curate, Sts Mary and Nicolas, Spalding: to be NSM, Sts Mary and James, Grimsby *(Lincoln)*.

The Rev David McCormick, Assistant Curate, All Saints, Holbeach: to be Team Vicar, St Hugh's, Grimsby Team Ministry (Lincoln).

The Rev Patrick Sales, Vicar, Herne: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, Hoath (Canterbury).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.E. Colehan and Miss H.M. Orosz
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Colehan, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, and Hannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Orosz, of Putney, London.

Mr A.S. Covell and Miss N.F. Lervy
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs David Covell, of Chelsea, London, and Nina, daughter of the late Colonel Keith Lervy and of Mrs Keith Lervy, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr R.P.P. Donlan and Miss S.J. Edgedale
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mrs Joanna Donlan, and Sarah, daughter of *Mrs* Mary Edgedale and Lieutenant Colonel William Edgedale.

Dr A. du'Gay and Miss N.K. Cowie
The engagement is announced between Antony, son of Mr and Mrs P. du'Gay, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Nicola, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Cowie, of Horrabridge, Devon.

Mr A.A. Eaglestone and Miss C.J. Pearce
The engagement is announced between Ady, second son of Mr and Mrs Keith Eaglestone, of Tirley, Gloucestershire, and Clare, second daughter of Professor and Mrs John Pearce, of Leicester.

Mr R.D. Green and Miss R.A.J. Williams
The engagement is announced between Roddy, son of David and Ann Green, of Snittlegarth, Ireby, Cumbria, and Rosalind, youngest daughter of Wyndham Williams and of *Gillian Williams*, both of London.

Captain R.D.W. Hall and Miss S.J. Conning
The engagement is announced between *Captain Duncan Hall*, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's), son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Hall, of Little Bookham, Surrey, and Sara, *daughter of Mr D.G.J. Conning* and the late Mrs Gwen Conning, of Lyddington, Wiltshire.

Mr R.W.O. Head and Miss S.J. Howgego
The engagement is announced between Rollo, younger son of Mr Frank Head, of Gaucin, Spain, and of Lady Lewinton and stepson of Sir Christopher Lewinton, of Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Howgego, of Goodnestone, Kent.

Mr S.J. Henderson and Miss A.L. Coles
The engagement is announced between Stuart John, son of Mr and Mrs John Henderson, of Clifton, Bristol, and Alexandra Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Coles, of Clifton, Bristol.

Mr M.P. Kelly and Miss S-A. Bradshaw
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr Patrick Kelly, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and of Mrs Ruth Kelly, of St Mawes, Cornwall, and Sally-Anne, elder daughter of Dr John Bradshaw, *MBE*, and Mrs Bradshaw, of Glastonbury, Somerset.

Mr D. Levine and Miss S.E. Davis
The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Levine, of London and Tel Aviv, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr and *Mrs Norman Davis*, of Mussidon, France, and London.

Mr N.H.M. Price and Miss C. Llewellyn
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Henry *Maurice*, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Price, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Celina, daughter of Mr Charles Llewellyn, of Leigh, *Surrey, and Mrs Nova Williamson*, of Stratford St Andrew, Suffolk.

Mr T.D. Lyons and Miss A. Duffy
The engagement is announced between Timothy David, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Lyons, of Linton, West Yorkshire, and Annette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Duffy, of East *Kilbride, Strathclyde*.

Mr R.H. McArthur and Miss L.J. Weir
The engagement is announced between Robin, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Hugh *McArthur*, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, and Lucinda, daughter of the late Mr David Weir and of Mrs Noreene Weir, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr R.J. Merriweather and Miss R.C. Assi
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Merriweather, of Colchester, and Raffaella, eldest daughter of Signor and Signora G. Assi, of Milan, Italy.

Mr A.J. Ord and Miss S.C. Garland
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Ord, of Nunthorpe, Yorkshire, and Sarah, daughter of *Mr and Mrs Kenneth Garland*, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr N.J. Perry and Miss J.L. Haryott
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Perry, of Bidborough, Kent, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Haryott, of Paley Street, Berkshire.

Mr R.A.J. Rothery and Miss L.J. Warrington
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs R.C. Rothery, of Gifford, East Lothian, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Warrington, of Shepley, West Yorkshire.

Mr T.G.M. Santini and Miss J.M. Hulburd
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mrs Dawn Santini and the late Mr Moreno Santini, of Chelsea, London, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and *Mrs Christopher Hulburd*, of Wingham, Kent.

Mr N.R. Shaw and Miss A.C. Jones
The engagement is announced *between Nicholas, eldest son of* Mr and Mrs Gordon Shaw, of Reigate, Surrey, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones, of Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Marriages

Mr J.R. Godwin-Austen and Miss M.C.D. Cavender
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Andrew's, Dowlish Wake, Somerset, of Mr Jonathan Godwin-Austen, to Miss Mary Cavender. The Rev John Tyler officiated, assisted by the Rev Keith Turner.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Richard Beaumont, Alicia Fratorini, Georgia and Louis Gore-Langton and Pru Waterstone. Major Charles Craig-Harvey was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in the Maldives.

Mr A.R. Korn and Miss M.J. Blakeley
The marriage took place quietly in Norwich, on December 22, between Adam Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan J. Korn, and Melissa Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Blakeley.

***Mr C.D. Riches* and Miss V. Filsell**
The marriage took place on January 2, in Wilmington, USA, between Mr David Riches and Miss Vikki Filsell, of Putney.

Legal appointment

Mrs Mary Ina May has been appointed as a *full-time* chairman of Social Security, Medical, Disability, and Child Support Appeal Tribunals.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul. The Lord's instruction never fails: it makes the simple wise.
Psalm 19 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

CAREY-YARD - On January 10th, to Sonia (née Price) and Timothy, three beautiful daughters, Claudia, Rosamund and Katrina.

CROFTON - On 5th January, to Hilary (née Twort) and Julian, a son, William Robert Maltby, a brother for Harriet.

FOY - On January 4th, to Lara (née Leigh-Wood) and Josh, a son, Samuel Ainslie.

GUNTER - On 10th January, to Annabel (née Davies) and Toby, a daughter, Alexandra Ann Charlotte.

HAMMOND - On January 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Drake) and Paul, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Claire Monica.

HIGGS - On 8th January 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Marcia (née Shekerdemian) and Roland, a daughter, Perdita, a sister for Leo.

McKEE - On 28th December in Germany, to Rachel (née Sloan) and James, a son, Oliver Alexander King, a brother for Jamie and Sarah. Deo Gratias.

PANTON - On December 11th, to Lucy and David, a son, Charles Peter Henry.

RIDDICK - On January 3rd, to Sarah and Graham, another beautiful daughter, Charlotte Louise, a sister for George and Rosannah.

WAITE - To Dawn (née Peters) and Robert, a son, James Frederick Weldon, on New Year's Day.

WILLIAMS - On 2nd January in Liverpool, to Rachel (née Baskett) and Bruce, a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Leonorah.

DEATHS

ASHTON - Ingrid Shawcross, widow of Ben, died peacefully at Hornby Tuesday January 9th 1996. Service and interment at St Margaret's Church, Hornby, nr. Lancaster, Saturday January 13th at 1 pm. Enquiries Preston Ireland Bowker, 3-5 Chapel Street, Lancaster, tel: (01524) 39656.

BARKER - Peacefully on January 8th. Alan much loved husband of Dorothy, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service at Bernard Sunley Home, Woking, on January 12th at 3 pm. Interment at Salisbury Cathedral to be arranged (ring 01483 772266 for details). No flowers, donations if wished, to Friends of the Elderly, 42 Ebury Street, London SW1.

BARRON - Jennifer Hamilton, formerly Tett, wife of R.W. Barron and mother of Nicholas, Adrian, David and Christopher Tett, on 6th January.

BELL - Professor R.P. (Ronnie) Bell, FRS, died peacefully on 9th January 1996 at the Kingston Nursing Home, Leeds, aged 88 years. Husband of Margery, father of Michael. Honorary Fellow of Balliol College. Professor, Stirling University 1967-75. Funeral at Lawnswood Crematorium, Leeds, on Monday 22nd January at 12 noon. No flowers, please. Donations, if desired, to Friends of the Lake District, No 3, Yard 77, Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4ED. Enquiries to Wm Dodgson & Son, tel: (0113) 2498849.

BOWMAN - On 6th January at Shoreham Hospital after a brief illness, Robert E. (Berry) Bowman aged 95, much loved husband of Jo for 61 years, father of Jan and Margaret, grandpa of Iona, Robert, Bill, Kate and Peter. Cremation at Worthing Crematorium on 18th January at 12.40 pm. No flowers please. All enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton, tel: (01903) 713939.

BRIGHTEN - On January 6th, Barbara, a much loved friend, aunt and great-aunt. Cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday January 16th at 12 noon. No flowers, but donations to The Bow Housing Society Ltd., 23 Bolingbrook Grove, London SW11 6EN.

BURTT - Sidney William passed away on 8th January 1996 aged 70 years. Sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral Service on Friday 12th January at St Helen's Church, Benson, 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Dr. Barnardo's or R.A.F. Benevolent Fund c/o Howard Chadwick Funeral Service, Clock House Cottage, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, (01491) 825222.

CLARKE - George Bagshaw beloved husband of Margaret née Downes, suddenly on January 4th at the James Paget Hospital, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth. Funeral Tuesday January 16th at 10am at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Gorleston. Flowers or donations for St Barnabas Society c/o Arthur Jary & Sons, High Street, Gorleston.

COUSLEY - Robert Andrew John on 4th January 1996 of Sheffield. All enquiries to John Heath & Sons (0114) 2722222.

DAWSON-SHEPHERD - Ian Douglas on 8th January, peacefully at Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton, aged 80. Founding father and first Chairman of Scope, formerly The Spastics Society, SOS (Stars Organisation Supporting Action for People with Cerebral Palsy), The Little Foundation and Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital. Adored husband of Margaret Kathleen, loving father of Judith and Andrace and (by first wife Margaret, now deceased) Anne, Sarah, Deborah and the late Rosemary. A greatly beloved brother, uncle and grandfather. Private cremation and funeral in Kew on Wednesday 17th January. Thanksgiving in central London for all who respected and admired him - date to be announced. No flowers but donations gratefully received for The Little Foundation, in the first instance for the mother and baby clinic project, c/o The Little Foundation, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

FRASER - On January 8th, peacefully after a short illness, Kathleen, widow of Gordon. Much loved mother of John and grandmother of James and Annabel. Funeral at the Park Crematorium, Aldershot, at 4.30 pm on Monday January 15th.

GRADON - Air Commodore Oswald Gradon C.B.E. died peacefully at home on 6th January aged 80. Much loved husband of Judy and dear father of Bob and Michael. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Market Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 17th January at 2.30 pm. No flowers, donations if desired to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

GREEN - On January 9th, peacefully at home, Mavis Newsham (née Boxall) beloved wife of the late Walford Scott Green, mother of Roger, Gillian and Jonathan, grandmother of Hugh, Nicholas, James, Christopher, Timothy and Simon. Funeral Service at 2pm Tuesday 16th January at St Peter's Parish Church, Ightham, Kent. Flowers or donations to R.N.L.I. if desired c/o Ord-Hume Funeral Services, 33A Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2RS, (01732) 353746.

HAVERGAL - On January 7th 1996, Betty Mary (née Hepworth) wife of the late Rev Donald Havergal of Yatton, Avon, and mother of Margaret, Richard and Andrew. Funeral Service St Mary's Church, Yatton, Monday January 15th at 11am. No flowers please. Donations if desired to St Mary's Restoration Appeal c/o The Rector, 1 Well Lane, Yatton, Avon BS19 4HT.

HELM - On 9th January 1996 peacefully at QEII Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, Isabel, widow of Sir Knox Helm, GBE, KCMG, beloved mother of Donald and Isabel and of the late Ann. Funeral at St Peter's Church Tewin on Saturday 20th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Geo. W. Blow & Sons Ltd., Church Street, Welwyn, Herts., tel: (01438) 714686.

HOLLAND - James S. Holland O.B.E., F.S.I.A.D., A.R.C.A., on January 7th after a short illness, loving husband of Jackie and much loved father of Sue, Viv, James and Jane. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at Pembury Old Church on Wednesday January 24th at 3 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to the Artists Benevolent Fund or Friends of Pembury Parish Church c/o R. Medhurst F/D, Vine House, Hartfield, Sussex TN7 4AD.

HOWLETT - Herbert (Bert). Beloved husband of Molly and much loved father to Sue and Carol. Passed away from the midst of his family on January 9th, he will be sadly missed by the many that knew him. Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research c/o H.C. Grimstead, Chalfont St Peter.

HUGHES - Brigadier Patrick Malcolm M.B.E. Died peacefully on 9th January aged 84 in Nairobi, Kenya. Greatly missed by family and friends.

DR HAKING WONG

The Directors of the Main Board of The W. Haking Group announce with great sadness that their Group Chairman and Permanent Governing Director - Dr. *Haking Wong, C.B.E., LL.D.* (Hon) passed away peacefully on 9th January 1996 at 7:30 am., Hong Kong time.

JAKUBSKA - Wanda Maria aged 71 on January 7th 1996 at The Royal Free Hospital after a short but painful illness. Dearly loved wife of Dr Roman Jakubski, mother of Jack, mother-in-law of Felicity, grandmother of Millie and Ruth. Cremation Service at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11, on Monday 15th January at 12.30 pm. Donations to Cancer Research Fund, Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

KINGSLEY - Charles Herbert on January 9th peacefully in Monte-Carlo aged 95. Much loved husband of Nicky and father of Robin and grandfather of Lucinda, Sophie and Celia. A private family funeral will be held.

LATTO - Ermine, peacefully at the Fairmile Marie Curie Centre, Edinburgh, on January 9th, 1996. Ermine Latto, beloved wife of the late William, much loved mother of Margaret, Jean and Sandy and a dear grandmother and great-grandmother of the family. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel, Edinburgh, on Monday, January 15th at 2.15 pm to which all friends are invited.

LE MAY - On 8th January 1996 Mary Elizabeth Le May aged 81 years, peacefully at Ersham House Nursing Home, Hailsham, Sussex. Widow of Cecil Le May and daughter of the late Dr. John Clark Wilson of Hampstead. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Monday 22nd January at 12.15 pm. *Family flowers only*, donations to Sue Ryder Foundation c/o Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne, Sussex.

MATTHEWS - Eileen (née Ralph), widow of Tommy will be cremated on Monday 15th January at 10.30 am at Hendon Crematorium.

McKELVIE - On January 8th peacefully at Ashtead Hospital, Ricky, wife of the late Ian. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service to be held later. Donations to British Heart Foundation and Imperial Cancer Fund.

MILLS - On January 7th at Barton on Sea Group Captain Randolph Stuart Mills D.F.C. aged 86 formerly of Victoria and Winchester. Funeral Service at Southampton Crematorium (East Chapel) on Thursday January 18th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations, if desired, to R.A.F. Benevolent Fund c/o Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, SO23 0HU.

MORRIS - Bryan Ralph OBE on 5th January 1996 in Hereford. Remembered with much love by family and friends. Funeral at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath on Monday 22nd January, 11.20 am. A Memorial Service will be held in St Andrew's Church, Gothenburg, Sweden on Friday 26th January, 11 am.

NASH - Roy aged 77 years. Died suddenly on 3rd January in his beloved Madeira. Dearest husband of Joyce, father of Andrew and proud grandpa of Suzanne, Adam, Sarah and Emily. Respected journalist and author. "A very special man". Service at City of London Crematorium on Saturday 13th January at 2pm. Donations, if desired, to the National Heart and Lung Institute, Dove House Street, SW3.

NESBITT - Patrick Evelyn DSO, TD. Peacefully on 8th January 1996. Dearly loved husband of the late Jill and beloved father to David, Clare, Sarah, John and dearly loved grandfather. Private cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at South Harting Church on Monday 15th January at 2.30 pm. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Relief/King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Barbara Agar Ward. All enquiries c/o L.F. Lintott, North Street, Midhurst, (01730) 813264.

ORCHARD - On 8th January 1996, peacefully in hospital after a short illness, Kathleen Veronica (née Breen). Will be much missed by family and friends. Enquiries to Heathfield Funeral Service, tel: (01435) 862648.

ORMISTON - Julian (Peter) died peacefully after a short illness on Monday January 8th aged 89. Funeral at Woking Crematorium on Monday 15th January at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to RNIB.

PEAL - Kathleen Helen "Tuppy" on 22nd December 1995 aged 96. Service of Remembrance in Salisbury Cathedral at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd January. No flowers but donations if desired to Missionaries of Charity c/o Alan Turner, Mile Ash, Brook, Ashford, Kent TN25 5PG.

PHELPS - On January 7th 1996, Reta Elizabeth (née Boxall), dearly loved mother of Willow and grandmother of Gawain. All enquiries please to F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton, tel: (01903) 713939.

PRITCHARD - Suddenly on January 8th at his home at Beccles, Suffolk, Douglas Allwood, devoted husband of Kathleen and a beloved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Beccles, on Tuesday January 16th at 12 noon. No flowers by request but donations if desired for St Michael's Church, Beccles, c/o Harvey Bros., Funeral Directors, Newgate, Kirby Cane, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2PP.

SWIFT - On January 5th, peacefully in her sleep Margot Mary (née Pardoe). Authoress of The "Bunkle" Books. Aged 93. Beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral at King's Lynn Crematorium on Tuesday January 16th at 10 am. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the R.N.I.D. c/o John Lincoln, 40 Greevegate, Hunstanton PE36 6AB.

SWINGLER - Bryan Edwin, C.B.E., former Assistant Director General of The British Council, at home on January 8th, 1996. Beloved husband of the late Herta, father of Carolyn, brother of Joan, grandfather of Patrick and Sophie and father-in-law of Jeremy. Requiem mass at St John's Church, Lowick on Monday 15th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Ward 4 Trust Fund, Wansbeck Hospital c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, Tweed House, Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed TD15 2AA.

THOMSON - George on January 4th 1996. Died peacefully at home after a remarkable and full life. President of Chelsea Football Club. Dearly loved by his family. He will be sadly missed by them and his many friends. Funeral Monday 15th January 4 pm at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey. Flowers by 2 pm to Chittys, 45 Kingrove Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

WILSON - Suddenly on Saturday 30th December 1995 at Kings College Hospital John L. Wilson (Jack) aged 75 years, beloved brother of George and Uncle and Great-Uncle to family in Aberdeen and London. Past General Secretary of NATTKE and Joint General Secretary of BETA. Will be sorely missed by his family and friends. No funeral at his own request.

WOODS - Frances Helena, loved daughter of the late Lt. Col. and Mrs G.G. Woods of Camberley, peacefully on 6th January. Aged 84. Funeral at Woking Crematorium at 3 pm Thursday 18th January.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

MORGAN - Dorothy Irene died 11th January 1993. Sadly missed by her family and friends.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE - Louise. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, SW1 on Wednesday January 17th at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, to Mrs Ursula Gay, Greater London Fund for the Blind.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DURRANT - Mrs E. Durrant and family would like to express their gratitude *to all* the colleagues and *friends* who attended the funeral of ex Chief Fire Officer C.G. Durrant for all their support and sympathy.

McMANUS - Elizabeth and all the McManus family would like to thank all friends and colleagues for their kind donations to the Cancer Research Campaign in memory of Owen. In addition the family were much fortified by the very large number of Mass cards received.

BIRTHDAYS

B - To the world you are someone, but to someone you are the world. Happy Birthday. Volim Te, R.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR J. P. KENYON

Professor J. P. Kenyon, FBA, 17th-century historian, died in Norwich on January 6 aged 68. He was born in Sheffield on June 18, 1927.

JOHN KENYON was one of the leading English historians of the 17th century. He quickly achieved an international reputation and held many distinguished posts on both sides of the Atlantic. In Britain he was a university lecturer at Cambridge, and held chairs at the universities of Hull and St Andrews; in the United States he held a visiting professorship at Columbia University, 1959-60, and was Distinguished Professor of Early Modern British History at the University of Kansas, 1987-94.

By his early fifties Kenyon's achievements had been recognised by an honorary degree from Sheffield, a Fellowship of the British Academy, and the invitation to give the Ford Lectures at Oxford — still for many historians the ultimate accolade of their professional careers.

John Philipps Kenyon first established his reputation at Christ's College, Cambridge. He was one of a long line of distinguished historians picked and promoted by Sir John Plumb, the doyen of Christ's historians for the last 50 years. Historians of the calibre of Rupert Hall, Barry Supple, Frank Spooner, Neil McKendrick, John Burrow, Quentin Skinner, Norman Stone, Geoffrey Parker, Eric Stokes, Simon Schama, Clive Holmes, David Cannadine, Linda Colley, Joachim Whaley, Niall Ferguson and many others were launched on their successful careers by Plumb's patronage and support at Christ's. Kenyon was one of the first of the Christ's stable to make his mark but in many ways he was an atypical product of the Plumb school.

He was less radical and less secular in his sympathies than the typical Christ's historian. More significantly, he was more of an outsider than most. Like Plumb himself, but unlike most of his protégés, Kenyon was a product of a grammar school and one of the old civic universities. He was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, and then at his home city university.

When he arrived at Christ's in 1954, Kenyon quickly cast himself in the role of college sceptic and bluff Yorkshireman. His dismissive sniff and characteristically heavy sigh soon became his immediately recognisable signature tune in Christ's Senior Combination Room. In college meetings he invariably sat himself as far away from the college power bosses as possible and sniffed his disapproval from the darkest corners of the room.

In fact, the provincial outsider pose was as much an act as a reflection of reality. Kenyon was quickly offered all the posts he could reasonably have wanted. He was appointed to a university lectureship within a year of his arrival in Cambridge and became in quick succession a college lecturer, director of studies, and junior proctor. And, by his early thirties, he had been offered and accepted a chair at Hull where he was to stay for the next 19 years.

His rapid promotion was amply justified by his scholarly output. He made his reputation at Cambridge by publishing in the same year both his major research monograph *Robert Spencer Earl of Sunderland* (still in many scholars' eyes his best book) and his influential general study of *The Stuarts*. They were both published in 1958.

His subsequent publications consolidated his reputation but did not advance it as much as he would have liked. He published eight substantial books during the course of his career, never leaving the confines of the English 17th century except for his more general survey of British historiography in *The History Men* (1983). In this book, he aimed for the wider audience he had reached as a book reviewer for many years on *The Observer*.

His general history reviews for *The Observer* allowed him to demonstrate that, for all his curmudgeonly pose, his public judgments were both elegantly written and remarkably generous. His prose reflected his beautiful, precise calligraphy far more accurately than the bar-room bluffness he often adopted in person.

The elegant prose did not come easily to him. Those who were taught by him will remember his waste-paper basket overflowing with drafts which had failed to meet his exacting standards. They looked all too perfect in his crisp italic script to deserve rejection. But rejected they were, as Kenyon restlessly and gloomily sought the apt phrase and the appropriate judgment. It seems a strange coincidence that the two literary stars at Hull University in the 1960s and 1970s — Philip Larkin and John Kenyon — should each have been such fastidious wordsmiths and such decided misanthropes.

Kenyon could be a rumbustious companion — especially in his cups — but few things seemed to give him true satisfaction or real contentment. A grim pessimism was his characteristic mood. He drank heavily for many years and in later life both his figure and his health suffered as a result. He overcame the effects of cancer of the bladder in his early sixties, but his weight had taxed his heart for many years.

When he retired from his chair at Kansas and returned to England, there were hopes that his gloom might lift. His acceptance of an honorary research fellowship at the University of East Anglia and the evident satisfaction he took in his editing of *The Oxford Illustrated History of the English Civil Wars* suggested that a more serene period lay ahead. Alas, his sudden death has dashed such hopes.

He leaves his widow Angela, a son, two daughters and a stepdaughter.

KÁROLY GRÓSZ

Károly Grósz, former Prime Minister of Hungary and General Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, died from cancer on January 7 aged 65. He was born in 1930.

RULING Hungary briefly in the late 1980s, just before the collapse of communism, Károly Grósz was to die in unloved obscurity. Yet there were moments at the height of his power when it looked as if he just might save Hungarian communism, and make of it something more or less acceptable to the Hungarian people. Instead, he witnessed its near-extinction in 1990, and the return to power without him of the more flexible of his former comrades as democratic socialists four years later.

Károly Grósz was born into a working-class, politically-minded family in Miskolc, at the heart of Hungary's heavy industrial belt. He was 14 when the Red Army arrived in 1944, and 18 when the process of turning Hungary into a one-party state was completed. The Communists needed malleable young working-class activists. Grósz had the right age and background to make his way in a Communist Party which gradually came to dominate all initiative in Hungary.

The 1956 Revolution faced him, like all his compatriots, with a fundamental choice between communism and nationalism. The vast majority turned against the Communist Party, which disintegrated within a matter of days. Grósz stayed loyal to it, and did his best to fight the "counter-revolution" in Miskolc. But it was Soviet intervention, not the efforts of Hungary's Communists, which destroyed the country's new multi-party government, and which established in power a reconstituted Communist Party led by János Kádár. Grósz joined the new party.

He was to spend his whole career in its service, the first twenty years in a series of appointments along the border, scarcely marked in the old communist system, between journalism and propaganda. Success in a series of positions led him to the party's own ideological propaganda department, with hopes of attaining real power at the party's heart. But in 1979, perhaps seen as over-thrusting, he was banished to run the party in Borsod County, in his own part of the country.

Grósz used his years in Borsod to build a position for himself as a party heavyweight. The early 1980s were a time in which János Kádár's mildly reformist and consumer-oriented communism was manifestly running out of steam. In intellectual circles there were hopes of pushing reform further, even a glimmer of hope that in time the party's monopoly of power might yield to something better. Grósz stood for a different constituency: heavy industry, the working class, those of its members who had done well out of communism. Accounts came back to Budapest from Borsod County of a party boss who was wrapping himself in the national flag, was rough-spoken, dismissive of intellectuals, and somewhat anti-semitic.

In 1984 Grósz brought some of this aura with him when he was promoted to lead the party's Budapest district structure. And in 1985 he took them into the Political Committee itself, the inner sanctum of the party leadership.

Within the leadership Grósz found profound uncertainty. Communism was drifting towards the rocks. Grósz advocated tough political measures to control the situation and, at the same time, radical economic reform. Kadar, old and wary, was unwilling to back either, but in 1987 he made Grósz Prime Minister. Despite Grósz's efforts the drift continued, until in May 1988 Kadar was driven from the office of General Secretary that he had held for 32 years, and Grósz took his place, keeping also the office of Prime Minister.

It was Grósz's chance to be his country's Gorbachev, but it came fatally late. He did his best, with demonic hard work, a relish for hard decisions and a blunt honesty of expression. He learnt hard lessons quickly, and his old-fashioned communism yielded to new realities. While trying to preserve political discipline (with a toughness that won him few friends) he opened the economy to a return of capitalism to Hungary and embraced private initiative.

But the other communist leaders wanted to move faster. They hung Grósz's past and his reluctance to accept a multi-party system round his neck. In early 1989 he was driven to share power with his rivals and then gradually to cede it to them. When, in the autumn of that year, the party renamed itself the Hungarian Socialist Party it was left to Grósz and a small band of apparatchiks to continue to stand for communism. They were wiped out in the free elections of March and April 1990.

Grósz was quietly married, and had two sons. In the flesh, he struck foreign observers as coarse and even brutal, but realistic and honest. He came up in hard times through a hard system and achieved power too late to wrestle successfully with the problems that were overwhelming the party to which he had devoted his life. There will be little affection, but some respect, for his memory.

LINCOLN KIRSTEIN

Lincoln Kirstein, founder and general director of New York City Ballet, died in New York on January 5 aged 88. He was born in Rochester, New York State, on May 4, 1907.

A MAN of formidable intellectual gifts and determination, Lincoln Kirstein was active in many spheres of artistic and literary life, but his chief monument will be the foundation and nourishing of New York City Ballet, which he saw grow from frail beginnings into one of the world's greatest dance companies. With that achievement went the facilitating of George Balanchine's career as the finest and most influential of this century's choreographers. Kirstein defined their relationship with the words: "We never had a contract, we never had a quarrel, we never had much discussion. We just got on with what had to be done."

Kirstein had a profound moral sense of the contribution that art should make to society, and saw in the disciplines of classical ballet (he abhorred most modernists) a force that could give people richer and better lives. A tall, craggy man, stern in appearance and always dressed in dark suits, he looked like a successful lawyer. But there was kindness and generosity in his nature, and his heart burned with a consuming passion for his chosen work.

Lincoln Edward Kirstein was the son of a man who had risen from beginnings as a travelling salesman to become a partner in the leading store, Filene's. Their circumstances were comfortable, and the boy's uncertainty about a career was indulged.

His early ambition was to become a visual artist but he found himself without the skill to satisfy his own developing standards. However, at Harvard he was one of the founders of the Harvard Society for Contemporary Arts, which organised exhibitions of Picasso, Matisse, Braque and American artists including Alexander Calder and Buckminster Fuller. Its work has been seen as the forerunner of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, which was started soon afterwards.

Kirstein and his college friends also started a literary and art quarterly, *Hound & Horn*, which had a good reputation but ran at a loss for seven years. Thanks to these activities he met many artists, writers and benefactors whose help later proved valuable; his older sister Mina had already introduced him, during a teenage visit to London, to the Bloomsbury Group.

Kirstein's enthusiasm for ballet began as much from written accounts and picture books as from his limited early experience, but he did see the Diaghilev Ballet in Europe and took some ballet classes from Fokine. Having met Romola Nijinsky, he helped her substantially in writing her biography of her husband Vaslav and getting it published.

By 1933 Kirstein had come to the idea that America needed its own ballet company and that the best way to achieve this was to invite one of the greatest Russian ballet masters to run it. After hesitating between Massine and Balanchine, he chose the latter apparently because, although then less established creatively, he impressed Kirstein by his grasp of the possibilities. Kirstein was able to call on some of his friends to put up money to begin the venture.

Balanchine famously insisted that a school must be the cornerstone, and they opened the School of American Ballet at the beginning of 1934, when he and Kirstein were both still in their twenties. Before the year was out, the students were publicly performing the first version of one of Balanchine's best ballets, *Serenade*. But it was by no means plain sailing. During the 1930s the American Ballet had its artistic and financial ups and downs, including a tempestuous, brief, but memorable period as resident company to the Metropolitan Opera.

During this time Kirstein also ran a sister company, Ballet Caravan, specifically to foster young American choreographers. Two of the works he commissioned for it, *Filling Station* and *Billy the Kid*, both with books by Kirstein, have survived. Early in the Second World War the two companies merged briefly for a South American tour. But a hiatus followed while Balanchine had to find work elsewhere and Kirstein's US Army service took him to Europe. He had enlisted in the Corps of Engineers, became a dispatch rider, and later served notably in the Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives Office, rescuing works of art stolen by the Nazis.

In 1946 he and Balanchine founded the Ballet Society, a producing organisation for a subscription audience, from which New York City Ballet grew two years later. Within another two years Kirstein had negotiated a long summer season for the company at Covent Garden, and exchange productions with Sadler's Wells Ballet. This helped to consolidate its reputation at home and since then, through all vicissitudes, the company has never looked back.

Kirstein all this while continued other activities. He was a prolific author (including novels and poetry) and editor, besides producing American operas and organising exhibitions of American art. The most influential of his books were probably the polemical *Blast at Ballet*; *Movement and Metaphor*, an attempt to define the aesthetics of dance; and a lavish history of the first three decades of New York City Ballet. He also, during the 1940s, founded and ran *Dance Index*, a scholarly but lively magazine, and helped to introduce American audiences to Japanese music and theatre by taking Gagaku and the Grand Kabuki to New York.

Having made New York City Ballet possible in its beginnings, and overseen its growth and move to the palatial new State Theatre at Lincoln Centre, Kirstein finally helped hand it on to a new generation after Balanchine's death in 1983. His reward for this was six years later to be pushed ignominiously out of his post as general director of the school and company, following some disputes within the organisation — his occasional brainstorm, and perhaps a manic-depressive tendency, upset some financial supporters. However, he remained loyal to his offspring, and firmly defended Balanchine's successor, Peter Martins from some recent tendentious criticism.

Kirstein married, in 1941, Fidelma Cadmus. There were no children.

THE MACKINTOSH OF MACKINTOSH

Lachlan Mackintosh, OBE, The Mackintosh of Mackintosh, died of myeloma on December 26 aged 67. He was born on June 27, 1928.

A LOYAL and respected representative of an ancient Scottish aristocracy, Lachlan Mackintosh was the 30th chief of his clan. His declared aims were to serve the Highlands, his Queen and his country, and these he was to achieve with distinction. As The Mackintosh of Mackintosh he dedicated nearly forty years of his life to the wellbeing of his ancestral domain, his clan members and his tenants.

He developed a clan museum in the grounds of Moy Hall, his lochside ancestral seat set among the mountains and moorlands of Inverness-shire, and there he hosted an annual clan gathering and Highland sports fair, which became a prototype for many later such events. Mackintosh also travelled extensively, together with his wife, on behalf of the clan and his stalwart sense of duty and strong opinions — "be wrong with conviction" was his phrase — combined with a humour and modesty to earn him the esteem of the far-flung members of his clan.

Lachlan Ronald Duncan Mackintosh was not, however, brought up in Scotland. He was born in Camberley, the son of a vice-admiral, and went to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, from where he went to sea, serving in 1951 as flag lieutenant to the First Sea Lord and, later, in the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

However, with the sudden death of his father in 1957, Mackintosh inherited the title of Chief of the Clan and six years later, retiring from naval service, he moved to Moy Hall where he became immediately involved in local life. He participated wholeheartedly in local government and in 1971 was appointed Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Lochaber, Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey. In 1985 he was promoted to Lord Lieutenant.

Mackintosh was also vice-president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist association, 1969-71, and from 1990 to the time of his last illness he was chairman of roads and transport in the Highland Regional Council, a job which was no sinecure — the area of land involved, although relatively sparsely populated, covers roughly one third of Scotland. He was appointed OBE in 1972.

Lachlan Mackintosh is survived by his wife Celia, whom he married in 1962, and by a son and two daughters.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF I've got this prediction right Steve, and you said it would be totally impossible - at least the front page! - the name of clubs, regards Howard.

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ON THIS DAY

January 11, 1861

The British Government was here criticised for not opening up the interior of Australia, leaving it to individuals; but first the leader writer thought a brief geography lesson was needed.

AUSTRALIA: PRIDE AND SHAME.

If the Continent of Australia be in one respect the glory, it is in another the reproach of England, considered as a great colonizing country. This remark will be abundantly made out if we consider, first, the colonies which we have planted, and, secondly, the discoveries we have made. On the extreme South-West of the continent we possess the colony of Western Australia, or, as it used to be called, Swan River. This settlement, remote in its geographical situation, and not very much favoured in the quality of its soil or the indentations of its coast, is the only colony to which transportation is still continued. Passing over a long and dreary interval of coast without harbours or rivers, we next come to the colony of South Australia, and its capital, Adelaide——a territory circumscribed in extent and lying rather far aside from the great highway of ocean commerce, but possessing a fertile soil, vast mineral resources, and a Government apparently better administered and more stable than that of any other member of the group. Adjoining South Australia to the East, and occupying the extreme South-Eastern corner of the continent, lies the colony of Port Phillip, or Victoria, the best known of the Australian colonies——a land of pasture and of gold, of rich soil, many harbours, and containing the loftiest range of mountains in Australia. North of this lies the colony of New South Wales and its capital, Sydney, the most ancient of our settlements, though somewhat overshadowed as a gold and wool producing country by the unprecedented progress of Victoria. North of this again is the newly founded colony of Moreton Bay, or Queen's Land. When we consider that these settlements have all been planted by this country since the conclusion of the War of Independence of America, and all but one since the year 1828, we cannot but feel admiration and astonishment at so extraordinary an instance of vigour and success. It is the work, not of our Government, but of our people, and is only another instance of the singular aptitude of the English race for combined enterprise, and the facility with which they overcome the most appalling difficulties. But if we compare the number of our settlements with our geographical knowledge of the vast continent, we shall find as much reason for humiliation as we have just shown for pride; for the knowledge which we possess of Australia is, when compared with our settlement, ludicrously small . . .

[illegible]

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1996

NEWS

Israelis hail Husain peace trip

■ King Husain of Jordan became the first Arab monarch to visit Tel Aviv and he won the hearts and minds of the 400,000 inhabitants of this most Jewish of cities in a way which boosted the chances of peace in the Middle East.

In the most dramatic personal gesture since President Sadat of Egypt arrived in Jerusalem in 1977 and engineered the beginning of the end of old hostilities, the Jordanian leader defied the enemies of peace from the extremes of both the Jewish and Islamic communities .... **Page 1**

Terry Venables to quit as coach

■ Terry Venables is to stand down as England football coach *after the European championships this summer* to concentrate on a series of court cases arising from his dispute with Alan Sugar and allegations about his business dealings........**Page 1**

Back from the dead

Daphne Banks, the woman who came back from the dead, said that she felt fine as the doctor who had declared her dead apologised .... **Page 1**

Balloon let-down

An American balloonist's attempt to circumnavigate the globe came to grief off *Canada. Steve Fossett*, a Chicago banker, managed to land his one-man balloon, *Solo Challenger*, on a field in New Brunswick after taking off from South Dakota .... **Page 1**

Blair on attack

Tony Blair claimed that John Major had abandoned one-nation politics with his rejection of the Labour leader's vision of a stakeholder society .... **Page 2**

Hell not so bad

Traditional images of hellfire and damnation are wrong, says a Church of England report which criticises some past teachings for *trying to frighten people too* much .... **Page 3**

Air 'fight' escape

Four crewmen ejected to safety *when two RAF jet fighters collid*ed while apparently engaged in mock combat at about 800ft over Lincolnshire .... **Page 5**

Bypass battle

Work on the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the second day running when protesters overcame guards .... **Page 6**

Situations vacant

More than 130 high-street recruiting offices are to close after the Ministry of Defence decided to advertise Armed Forces vacancies *in jobcentres*.......... **Page 8**

Health drive

A drive to reduce unnecessary Caesarean *sections* was launched by *Stephen Dorrell, the Health* Secretary, as part of a campaign to save £1 billion being wasted on ineffective treatments ....**Page 9**

Tory debacle

Conservative Central Office was blamed for the debacle over a black parliamentary candidate who will be deselected for lying about his past .... **Page 10**

Hostage crisis

Russian troops ringed a convoy of buses carrying Chechen gunmen and dozens of captives on the border with Chechenia on the second day of a hostage seizure that has thrown the Government *into crisis*.......... ***Page 11***

Rocket seized

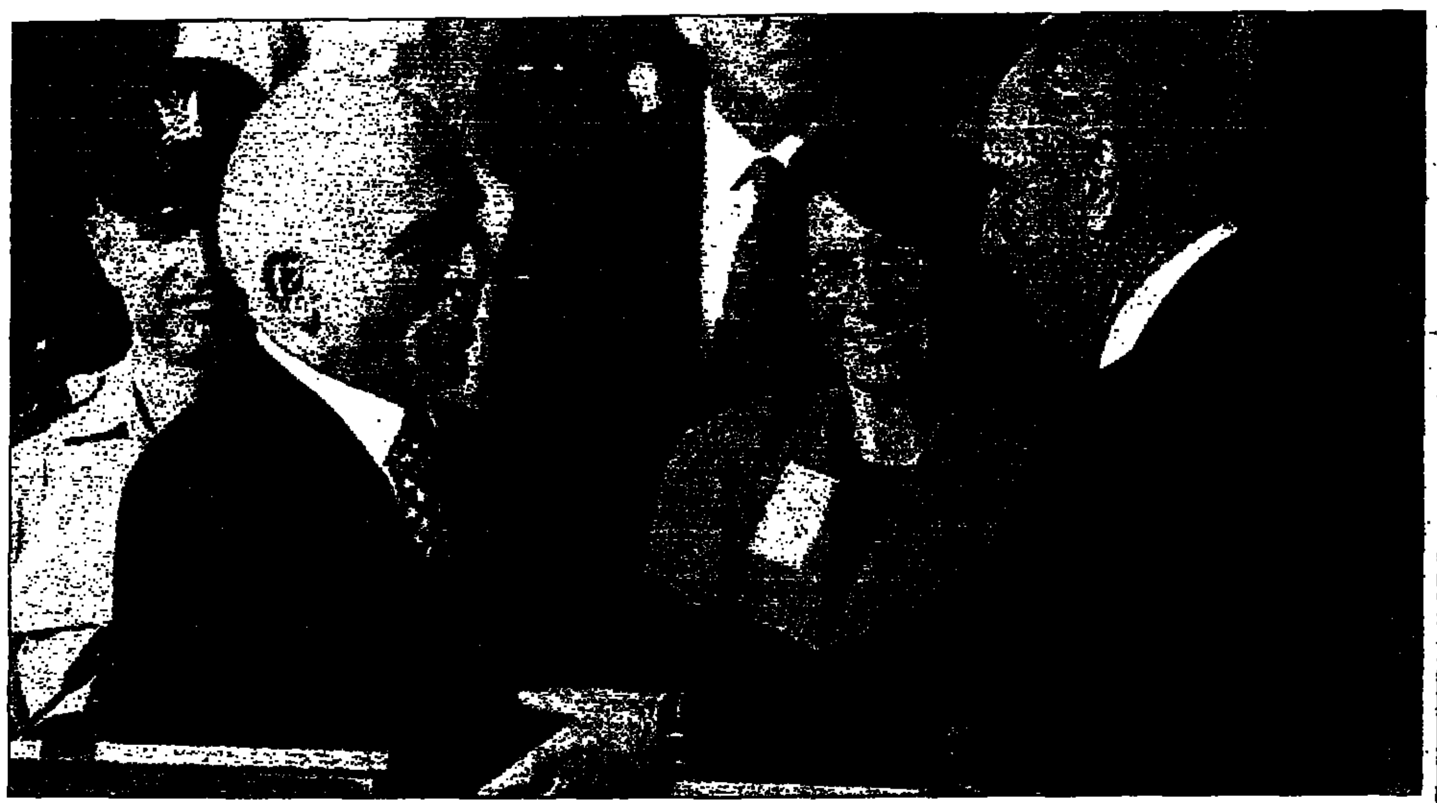
The rocket launcher thought to have been used in Tuesday's *deadly* attack on a crowded Sarajevo tram was confiscated by French Nato forces .... **Page 12**

Budget talks

Republican leaders were exploring radical strategies to advance their "revolution" after the breakdown of budget negotiations with President Clinton .... **Page 13**

Top of the form pub prize

■ The headmaster of a comprehensive school was criticised for offering pub luncheon vouchers as form prizes. Bob Salisbury of the Garibaldi School, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, said: "What happens when a pupil does well? His parents take him or her out for a meal. Now the pupils can take their parents or grandparents and get £10 off the bill" .... **Page 1**



King Husain of Jordan is greeted by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, on the Arab monarch's historic visit to Tel Aviv. Page 1

BUSINESS

Gas: TransCo, which operates Britain's pipeline network, is calling on the Government to delay the start of competition to supply households because the computer system could fail .... **Page 23**

Savoy: The Wontner family, the controlling shareholder, is supporting *its old enemy Forte as it fights* Granada's takeover .... **Page 23**

Bonuses: Despite the strong performance of the stockmarket last *year, Norwich Union froze its an*nual bonuses on life and pensions business while Commercial Union and Scottish Life cut annual bonuses on life policies .... **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 29.1 to 3671.2. Sterling fell to 83.1 after falls from $1.5457 to $1.5452 and DM2.2304 to DM2.2225 ....**Page 26**

SPORT

Athletics: Diane Modahl, the British 800 metres runner, will be able to run competitively while the authorities decide whether or not to exonerate her of alleged drug-taking .... **Page 38**

Cricket: England will hope for an improved display in the second one-day international against South Africa in the calmer venue of Bloemfontein .... **Page 38**

Rugby union: A nationwide survey *of English clubs by Michael Lord*, a Conservative MP, has found a widespread desire to retain amateurism in the game .... **Page 41**

Squash: The national championships, which start in Birmingham today, give Del Harris, the British No 1, a further chance to continue his resurgent form .... **Page 42**

ARTS

New films: Paul Verhoeven's flesh-filled new film, *Showgirls*, proves to be a tacky and pointless folly, but Carl Franklin's *Devil in a Blue Dress* is an evocative thriller set in 1940s Los Angeles .... **Page 31**

Young at art: Children learn about the elegant craft of bookbinding, from the experts at the British Library .... **Page 32**

Important year: Sir Philip Dowson has just been re-elected to his third year as president of the Royal Academy, a year when, he says, the future of the institution will be cast through expansion and development .... **Page 33**

Street smarts: A refreshingly funny slice of seedy London life can be found in Simon Bent's comedy, *Goldhawk Road* .... **Page 33**

FEATURES

Souvenirs: Laurence Olivier wanted to be best at everything and he kept everything. Dereck Granger is sifting the mementos .... **Page 17**

Ageless ageing, day 4: Do men get the menopause?; treating the female menopause; curing baldness; how water improves energy; *breathing exercises*..... **Pages 14, 15**

Non-fat fat: Olestra, because not digested, makes the calorie count plummet. But there are worries about its effects .... **Page 16**

BOOKS

Fact and fiction: The life of Lincoln, a rough-hewn man; how Lloyd George won the war; a history of Kew Gardens; the short stories of Julian Barnes .... **Pages 34, 35**

TRAVEL

Don't go to jail: The Foreign Office is planning to make videos listing what should and should not be done to avoid trouble.......... **Page 36**

THE PAPERS

Mitterrand was a large man with literary gifts that enabled him to obscure his meanings and his goals. But history will eventually unlock the secrets he so adeptly *tried to keep* — ***Washington Post***

If American liberalism want a Waterloo over the budget, then let's get on with the campaign for the House, the Senate and the Presidency — ***Wall Street Journal***

TELEVISION

Preview: The Stewarts want to allow their son to die, but the law is against them. *Inside Story* (BBC1, 10pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a *Singapore documentary that* may not please Tony Blair .... **Page 43**

OPINION

Red water

John Major now believes that he has the enemy's measure. His central *line of attack will be that*, however far the policy detail of Mr Blair's "stakeholder" society is from being fleshed out, the idea itself is enough to open "fresh water" .... **Page 19**

All Greek

Mr Papandreou was said yesterday *to have taken a few steps* in his private ward. But his wife Mimi, with virtually sole access to the stricken politician, used this fact to insist that he had no intention of stepping *down* .... ***Page 19***

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The City of London is a great institution, but it has one great weakness of character. It is always looking for easy money..... **Page 18**

THOMAS DE WAAL

The Russians are as stuck in Chechenia as they were 15 years ago in Afghanistan, with the unpleasant *difference that it is supposed to be* part of their territory .... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Lady Thatcher is now more of a symbol than a force. She will be applauded tonight for what she did rather than what she can do, for touching the hearts of her followers rather than as a potential leader of a crusade .... ***Page 10***

JOHN BRYANT

The world of sporting cups is a strange, glittering and, all too often, *ghastly one. I blame the Vic*torians. A century ago they were making desperate efforts to ring-fence their concept of the gentleman amateur .... **Page 42**

OBITUARIES

Professor J. P. Kenyon, historian; **Károly Grósz**, Prime Minister of Hungary; **Lincoln Kirstein**, founder of New York City Ballet; **The Mackintosh of Mackintosh**, clan chieftain .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Stakeholder economy; BBC head; drink-driving; no-fault divorce; courts-martial defects .... **Page 19**

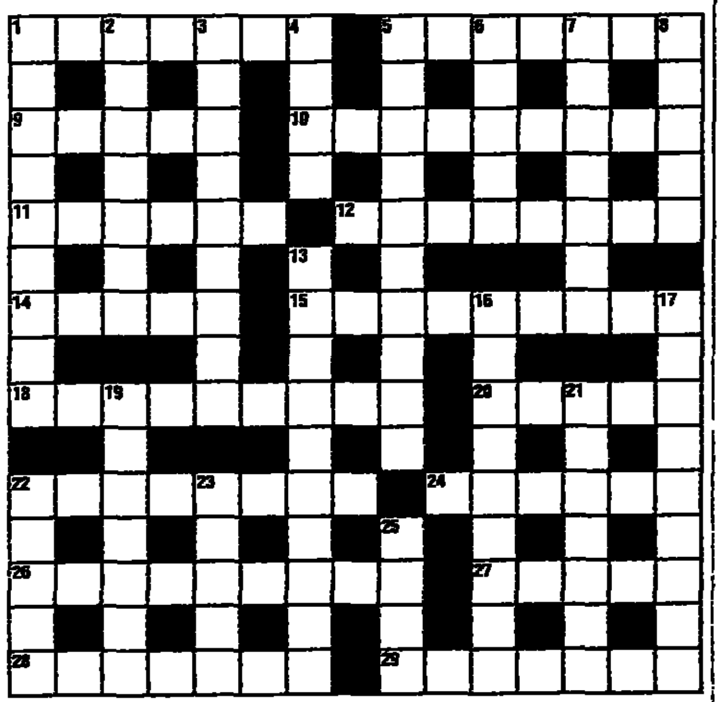
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **POP ON FRIDAY**
Meet the Mavericks, a band on a good run, plus David Sinclair and Caitlin Moran

■ ***STUDENT MOAN***
The chief executive of the Student Loans Company on the cash crisis facing his clients

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,061



ACROSS

1 Awkward steps negotiated in preparation for deal (7).
5 Important Conservative putting forward love for intolerance (7).
9 Town-based university's right to be exclusive (5).
10 Amount of money returned by bloke snatching it — capital fellow! (9).
11 Stunned maiden in a daze, wandering about (6).
12 Cured? Soldiers weren't (8).
14 By no means quick, runs into one trap (5).
15 Firmly established some pop music's foul (4-5).
18 These help to water hard round seed in spots (4-5)
20 Tree Roman turned over in the middle (5).
22 Mixed vegetables in soil with disease, in which one's planted (8).
24 Old documents showing extremes of poverty in most of capital (6).
26 Tale can spread wildly about party, based on brief account (9).
27 Dope — one in party is into it (5).
28 Dubious operator not entirely ruthless, having reformed (7).
29 A lot of chickens, and how they come when fried? (7).

DOWN

1 From grotesque am I shrinking, easily frightened? (9).
2 Offence generating pointlessly senseless anger (7).
3 American's to tell police of clue — print left by this? (6-3).
4 Novel taking up latter part of afternoon on the radio? (4).
5 Madman needing two means of containment (6-4).
6 Musical expert, one of many in academe (5).
7 Insignificant little bottle underlies most of drug experience (7).
8 Crop that is left in yard (5).
13 Shopowner favouring earlier closing around ends of June and August (10).
16 Modern composer raising passions with a record (9).
17 Study? It's an attempt to attain medical discipline (9).
19 Calls out for dishevelled hiker to get on board (7).
21 What's left of the road, perhaps? (7).
22 Hot food found first in this part of Ireland (5).
23 Ring including *Rheingold*, finally, as part of cycle (5).
25 Messy chap upset dishes, dropping one in middle (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,060

H	E	R	O	I	C	C	O	U	P	L	E	T	■	■
O	■	O	■	M	■	H	■	N	■	O	■	R	■	S
R	E	C	U	M	B	E	N	T	■	O	V	E	R	T
S	■	K	■	A	■	A	■	A	■	P	■	N	■	A
E	G	Y	P	T	■	P	U	M	P	■	S	C	A	N
L	■	■	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	C	■	H	■	D
A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	■	D	I	O	R	A	M	A
T	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	■	■	M	■	N	■	R
I	M	P	L	A	N	T	■	D	E	M	O	T	E	D
T	■	P	■	L	■	R	■	R	■	A	■	■	■	B
U	P	O	N	■	W	I	N	E	■	N	U	D	G	E
D	■	C	■	O	■	E	■	S	■	D	■	R	■	A
E	R	R	O	R	■	D	I	S	R	E	P	A	I	R
S	■	A	■	A	■	O	■	U	■	E	■	I	■	E
■	■	S	I	L	E	N	T	P	A	R	T	N	E	R

Times Two Crossword, page 44

The qualifying puzzle for The Times 1996 Crossword Championship will appear on January 15.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	[illegible]
Dorset,Hants & IOW	[illegible]
Devon & Cornwall	[illegible]
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	[illegible]
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	[illegible]
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	[illegible]
Central Midlands	[illegible]
East Midlands	[illegible]
Lincs & Humberside	[illegible]
Dyfed & Powys	[illegible]
Gwynedd & Clwyd	[illegible]
N W England	[illegible]
W & S Yorks & Dales	[illegible]
N E England	[illegible]
Cumbria & Lake District	[illegible]
S W Scotland	[illegible]
W Central Scotland	[illegible]
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	[illegible]
E Central Scotland	[illegible]
Grampian & E Highlands	[illegible]
N W Scotland	[illegible]
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	[illegible]
N Ireland	[illegible]

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	[illegible]
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	[illegible]
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	[illegible]
West Country	[illegible]
Wales	[illegible]
Midlands	[illegible]
East Anglia	[illegible]
North-west England	[illegible]
North-east England	[illegible]
Scotland	[illegible]
Northern Ireland	[illegible]

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon 13C (55F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir 0.45in; highest sunshine: Belfast 6.4hr

WHERE ARE YOU DOING THIS CROSSWORD?

If you're doing it at home because you're off sick, WPA's Health & Sickness Plan could be paying you up to £40 a week. Yet subscriptions start at just £1.02 a week.

WPA Health Insurance [illegible]

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** wet in most places. Rain will spread across England and Wales during the day, reaching eastern areas towards evening. Central and eastern parts could have brighter spells earlier on. Winds may become gale force in the west in exposed areas. Showers will follow

Rain will spread across Northern Ireland and Scotland during the day, reaching eastern parts after dark. Many eastern and central parts of Scotland will have bright spells, while in Northern Ireland a few scattered showers may follow the rain

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Central N:** cloudy start, some brighter spells. Rain in afternoon. Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** rain, scattered showers later. Wind southeast fresh or strong, becoming moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E England, Lake District, NE England, *Borders, SW Scotland*, Glasgow, Argyll:** some bright spells. Rain late afternoon. Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, NW Scotland:** mainly cloudy, some brighter spells. Rain after dusk. Wind southeast mainly moderate. Max 8C (46F)

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mainly cloudy, some brighter spells. Rain late evening. Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Shetland:** cloudy, some scattered showers. Wind southeast fresh. Max 7C (45F)

☐ **Outlook:** remaining largely cloudy with scattered showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

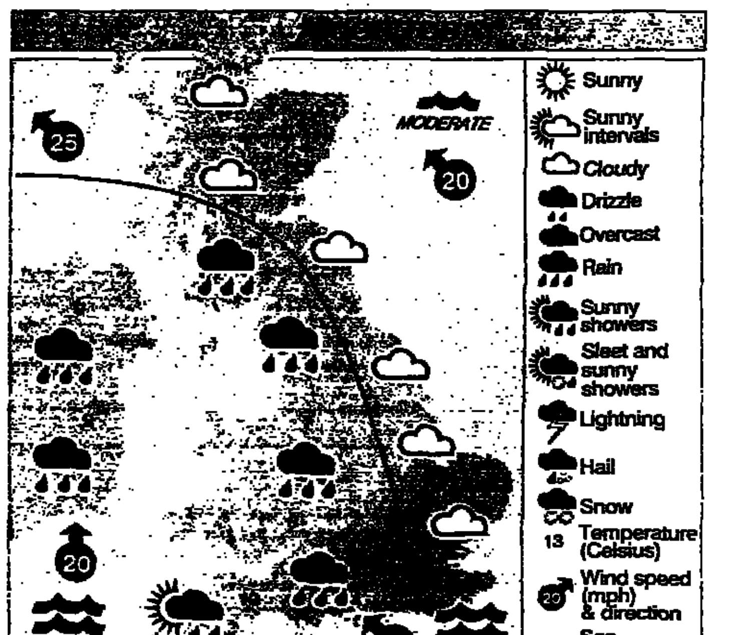
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Littlehampton	1.4	0.01	11	52	b
Anglesey	3.1	0.24	9	48	sh	Liverpool	0.7	0.02	9	48	c
Aspatria	3.1	0.25	9	48	sh	London	-	-	11	52	du
Aviemore	2.5	-	7	45	s	Lowestoft	-	0.01	9	48	fg
Belfast	6.4	0.01	7	45	s	Manchester	3.4	0.01	11	52	s
Birmingham	1.9	-	9	48	b	Margate	-	-	10	50	fg
Bognor R	2.8	-	11	52	b	Minehead	3.8	0.15	12	54	s
Bournemouth			11	52	b	Morecambe	2.6	0.02	9	48	r
Bristol	X					Newcastle	2.5	-	9	48	b
Buxton	2.4	0.05	7	45	s	Norwich	X				
Cardiff	4.9	0.07	11	52	s	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	2.7	-	11	52	b	Oxford	2.5	0.02	11	52	b
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X				
Colwyn Bay	2.5	0.14	9	48	c	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	-	-	8	46	fg	Poole	3.0	-	12	54	b
Doncaster	X					Prestatyn	X	0.08	9	48	sh
Dunbar	X					Ross-on-wye	3.4	0.07	12	54	s
Eastbourne	-	-	10	50	du	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	4.1	0.02	9	48	sh	Sandown	2.2	-	11	52	b
Eskdalemuir		0.45	6	43	sh	Saunton Snd	4.4	0.04	13	55	s
Exmouth	4.9	0.01	12	54	b	Scarboro'	0.2		8	46	b
Falmouth	X					Shanklin	1.3	-	11	52	b
Fishguard	1.1	0.17	8	46	sh	Shrewsbury	3.9	0.02	10	50	s
Folkestone	-		9	48	du	Skegness	0.5	-	8	46	c
Glasgow	5.5	0.36	8	46	s	Southend	-	-	9	48	du
Guernsey	1.1	-	13	55	b	Southport	X				
Hastings	-	-	9	48	fg	Southsea	1.7	-	11	52	c
Hayling I	2.5	0.01	10	50	b	St Ives	X				
Herne Bay	X					Stornoway	1.1	0.04	9	48	sh
Hove	-	-	10	50	du	Swanage	-	-	8	46	fg
Hunstanton	1.8	0.01	9	48	b	Teignmouth	5.1	0.06	12	54	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	X				
Isle of Man	2.5	0.29	10	50	h	Tiree	3.3	0.05	9	48	sh
Jersey	-	0.01	8	46	fg	Torquay	5.7	0.22	13	55	s
Kinloss	2.4	-	9	48	b	Tynemouth	0.5	-	8	46	c
Leeds	1.9	0.02	9	48	b	Ventnor	1.5	0.01	11	52	c
Lerwick	-	-	8	46	du	Weston-s-mare	X				
Leuchars	3.5	0.01	8	46	b	Weymouth	5.2	-	12	54	s

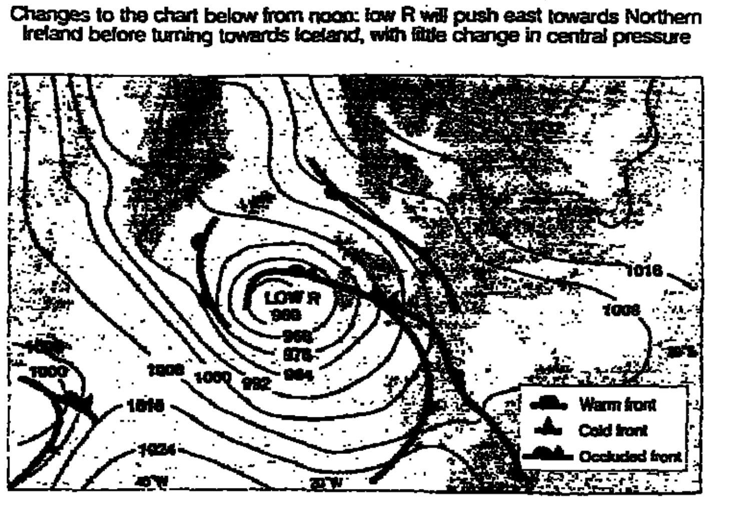
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	[illegible]	64	[illegible]	Cologne	6	43	r	Madrid	10	50	s	Riyadh	21	70	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	17	63	s	Rome	16	61	c
Alex'dria	18	64	f	C'phagn	2	36	c	Malaga	14	57	f	S Frisco	9	48	c
Algiers	16	61	f	Dublin	6	43	f	Malta	17	63	s	Salzburg	0	32	f
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Dubrovnik	11	52	r	Melb'rne	21	70	f	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	12	54	c	Faro	14	57	f	Mexico C	14	57	s	Seoul	-1	30	s
B Aires	31	88	s	Florence	14	57	f	Miami	14	57	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	15	59	f	Frankfurt	3	37	f	Milan	7	45	r	St'kholm	1	34	c
Bangkok	[illegible]	[illegible]	f	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	-9	16	[illegible]	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Barbados	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Geneva	6	43	s	Moscow	[illegible]	19	f	Sydney	22	72	f
Barcelona	13	55	f	Gibraltar	13	55	f	Munich	0	32	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Beirut	17	63	s	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	N Delhi	19	66	s	Tel Aviv	X	X	X
Belfast	7	45	c	Hong K	19	66	s	N York	-2	28	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Belgrade	9	48	c	Innsbrck	7	45	s	Nairobi	27	81	s	Tokyo	9	48	s
Berlin	2	36	f	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	19	66	f	Toronto	-6	21	sn
Bermuda	16	61	c	Jo'burg	24	75	t	Nice	13	55	f	Tunis	19	66	c
Biarritz	12	54	c	Karachi	29	84	s	Oslo	1	34	c	Valencia	16	61	s
Bordeaux	11	52	f	L Angeles	14	57	s	Paris	9	48	r	Vanc'ver	8	46	r
Brussels	9	48	s	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	4	39	s	Venice	9	48	f
Budapest	[illegible]	37	c	Le Touquet	8	46	c	Perth	28	82	s	Vienna	2	36	c
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	13	55	r	Prague	1	34	c	Warsaw	2	36	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	8	46	d	Reykjavik	0	32	r	Wash'ton	-5	23	sn
Ch'church	18	64	c	Luxembg	6	43	f	Rhodes	16	61	s	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Chicago	-2	28	c	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Zurich	5	41	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low R will push east towards Northern Ireland before turning towards Iceland, with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:36	6.71	5:14	6.78	Leith	5.47	5.01	6:00	4.98
Aberdeen	4.29	3.91	4:34	4.03	Liverpool	2:05	8.57	2:17	8.57
Avonmouth	10:10	12.11	10:32	11.74	Lowestoft	0:08	2.47	0:49	2.19
Belfast	1:51	3.15	2:12	3.49	Margate	2:38	4.56	3:04	4.35
Cardiff	9:48	11.14	10:09	10.63	Milford Haven	9:15	6.25	9:35	5.98
Devonport	8.47	5.05	9.10	4.78	Newquay	8:10	6.17	8:30	5.92
Dover	1:50	6.28	2:00	6.07	Oban	8:32	3.71	8:58	3.47
Dublin	2:34	3.67	2:58	3.79	Penzance	7.41	5.22	8:02	4.95
Falmouth	7.59	4.75	8:17	4.45	Portland	9:27	1.82	9:54	1.64
Glasgow	4.07	4.12	4.17	4.61	Portsmouth	2:13	4.51	2:21	4.35
Harwich	2:33	3.78	2:59	3.72	Shoreham	1:53	5.83	2:06	5.74
Holyhead	1:14	5.03	1:27	5.16	Southampton	1:39	4.32	1:54	4.26
Hull	9:22	6.80	9:32	6.99	Swansea	9:21	8.54	9:41	8.24
Ilfracombe	8:55	8.48	9:18	8.17	Tees	6:55	4.76	7:03	4.95
King's Lynn	9:19	5.93	9:38	6.08	Walton-on-Naze	2:26	4.06	2:55	3.99

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

Sun rises: 8.03 am
Sun sets: 4.14 pm
Moon sets 10.10 am
Moon rises 10.35 pm
Last quarter January 13

London 4.14 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.24 pm to 8.12 am
Edinburgh 4.03 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 4.13 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.42 pm to 8.18 am

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JANET BUSH 27

Economic optimists ignore Europe at their peril

BOOKS 34, 35

Masterly story of Lincoln made from a piece of folly

TRAVEL 36, 37

The magic of Paris by Eurostar for £69 return

DEL BOY GETS BAC
IN LINE
Sport 38-44

THE TIMES

2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1996

Insurers warn of gloom ahead over bonus payments

By Marianne Curphey

PENSIONS and life policyholders were given a warning yesterday to expect a year of disappointing returns after three major life companies cut or froze bonus rates. Despite the strong performance of the stock market last year, Norwich Union froze its annual bonuses on life and pensions policies, while Commercial Union and Scottish Life cut bonuses on life policies.

The companies defended the move as necessary after poor growth in the early 1990s, but analysts suggested the industry in general was concerned about competition and a fall in new business. Friends Provident also blamed a cut in bonus rates announced last week on the legacy of poor stock market performance in 1994. Rates are an important indication of how companies have fared during the year.

Watson Wyatt, the actuaries, said cuts were the result of life companies paying "over-generous" bonuses during the 1980s and that other firms were likely to follow suit.

Dick Squires, a partner specialising in insurance, said: "Payments were high in the 1980s but for the last couple of years some companies have not cut back as much as they ought to have done. In 1994 many companies were making losses but continued to pay out the same bonuses."

Rates were likely to remain relatively low, but continuing low inflation would mean they would provide a reasonable return in real terms, he added.

Richard Harvey, finance director of Norwich Union, which is to decide by the end of the year whether to end its mutual status, said the group would pay out a record £800 million this year on nearly 50,000 life and pensions policies that were maturing, compared with £600 million paid to 40,000 people in 1994.

"With-profits policies are designed to smooth out these peaks and troughs of volatile investment markets," he said. "Low inflation will mean lower investment returns in the 1990s when compared with the soaring figures of the Eighties, but investors will still enjoy good real returns from our well-diversified investment portfolio."

For Norwich Union policyholders, annual bonus rates remain unchanged for unitised policies. This is 6.5 per cent or life policies and for pensions it remains at 7.5 per cent.

Additional bonus rates have been improved to reward policyholders who keep to the long-term commitment of these plans. Annual bonuses also remain unchanged on conventional with-profits life and pensions policies: for life, the bonus is 2.5 per cent on the sum assured plus 4.5 per cent on attaching bonus; for pensions, the rates are 2.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively.

Commercial Union announced bonuses on the sum assured for conventional life policies had been reduced from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent and from 7.25 to 7 per cent on unitised with-profits life policies. Conventional pension bonus rates have been cut from 4.8 to 4 per cent, and unitised with-profits pensions fall from 9 to 8.5 per cent.

For Scottish Life policyholders, the bonus on the sum assured for individual life policies effected after 1968 has been reduced from 2.75 to 2.5 per cent.

Terminal bonus amendments on life policies range from no change at terms of 10 years or less, a reduction at terms of 15 and 20 years, and an increase at terms of 25 years and above.

Gas chief warns of supply trial chaos

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE head of TransCo, the British Gas subsidiary that operates Britain's gas pipeline network, is calling on the Government to delay the introduction of competition to supply households with gas until June because the computer system is untried and could fail.

In an interview with *The Times*, Harry Moulson, managing director, said it would be "ludicrous" to press ahead in a trial area covering 500,000 homes on April 1, as the Government plans, when the full computer systems would have been operating for only a month. The Government would "risk chaos for a short-term benefit".

In the worst-case scenario, the system could suffer a catastrophic loss of pressure. If supplies to a city the size of Birmingham were cut, they would take six to seven months to restore, he said.

A two-month delay would cost a typical customer who chose to switch just £5 off their gas bill, Mr Moulson said.

His warning came after the Director-General of Gas Supply, Clare Spottiswoode, ordered an urgent inquiry to determine whether the target date was still achievable.

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, has been told that the timetable is in danger because the Department of Trade and Industry has fallen behind schedule in drafting licences needed by companies to take part in the pilot covering Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.

John Michell, head of the DTI's oil and gas division, told businessmen that he had warned the minister of a "significant risk" that the DTI would not have the licences ready by February 1, although they were originally to have been available last October.

The warning from Mr Moulson will focus attention on a series of slippages in preparations for the first phase of a market-opening project designed to give Britain's 18 million household gas consumers a choice of supplier.

In 1993 TransCo lost track of how much gas had been shipped, and how much some industrial customers had received. Mr Moulson said that his company's service last year had been "bloody awful" and that "we are improving but we still haven't cracked it".

If the Government went ahead with the trial on April 1, there were significant risks. The worst outcome would be a breakdown that left TransCo unable to maintain pressure in the pipeline. Because every appliance has to be checked after a failure of supply, reconnecting a city would take six to seven months, he said.

More likely is the risk that TransCo will be unable to confirm the accuracy of meter readings if too many customers opt to switch supplier. That could result in widespread confusion over the bills of up to 20,000 customers three or four months into the trial.

"If the first stage of domestic competition, which is a great move by the Government, is a fiasco, what does if do for 1997, 1998 and the future?", Mr Moulson asked.

TransCo has spent almost two years developing a computer system for managing gas flows and bills, which was scheduled to begin trial operation on October 1 last year. Ernst & Young, the consultant, had warned TransCo that six months was needed to bed in the system, but that it was achievable in four. Only one part of the system has begun operation. On Saturday, gas industry leaders were called to an emergency meeting and told that full trials of the computer will not begin until March 1, just 31 days before the pilot scheme begins.

Gas plea, page 24
Pennington, page 25

PETER TRIEVNOR

Robert Shrager, finance director of Dixons, left, with John Clare, chief executive

Dixons disappoints, page 25

Christmas store sales fail to impress City

By Sarah Bagnall

CHRISTMAS trading statements from Dixons and Next sent shockwaves through the stores sector yesterday, pushing shares lower as analysts reined in their expectations of retailers' performances over the festive period.

Among the shares hit were Next, down 16p to 437p, Dixons, down 14½p to 409½p, Boots, down 11p to 598p, and JJB, down 19p to 570p.

Paul Morris, an analyst at SBC Warburg, said: "The City had priced in a phenomenally good Christmas and was expecting to have to make a large number of profit forecast upgrades. When prices have gone up to these levels, companies have to deliver in spades."

Next and Dixons were expected to be among the sector's star performers and although they both turned in good performances they failed to impress the City. Next saw a 13 per cent rise in high street sales and a 17 per cent increase in mail order sales between August and Christmas Eve — marking the fifth year in succession of double-digit sales growth.

Dixons posted a 10 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the first eight weeks of the second half, which includes Christmas.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINES TODAY

STOCK MARKE INDICES

FT-SE 100	3671.5
Yield	3.91%
FT-SE A All share	1799.91
Nikkei	20612.32
New York:	
Dow Jones	5098.33 (
S&P Composite	604.99

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*
Long Bond	110[illegible]*
Yield	6.12%*

LONDON MONE

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	110[illegible]

STERLING

New York:	
$	1.5453*
London:	
$	1.5457
DM	2.2253
FFr	7.8225
SFr	1.7990
Yen	162.57
£ Index	83.1

DOLLAR

London:	
DM	1.4400*
FFr	4.9325*
SFr	1.1638*
Yen	105.20*
$ Index	94.6

Tokyo close Yen 104.4

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar) $17.95 (

GOLD

London close $398.75 (

* denotes midday trading p

Split roles

J Sainsbury, the superma group, yesterday annour top level management changes, including a spli the role of David Sainsbu as chairman and chief executive, and the namin Dino Adriano as heir apparent to the post of ch executive of the UK supermarket business. T chief executive's job is to split into two separate po **Page 25**

House gloom

House prices in the UK f the final quarter of last y despite rises in four of th country's 12 regions, according to a survey tod The average price paid w £61,127. **Page 24**

Forte battle fuels rush for shares

MORE than 48 million Forte shares were traded yesterday as speculators and institutions bet on the outcome of one of the City's closest-fought takeovers (Eric Reguly writes).

The volume was equivalent to about 2.5 per cent of Forte's share capital. Several so-called Rule 8 disclosures will reveal today which investors have bought 1 per cent or more of the shares.

Forte shares rose 9p to 360p and Granada 16p to 653p. Traders said the volume was triggered by investors "looking for a cheap way" into Granada, whose revised offer is valued at about £3.8 billion.

George eases stance

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, was yesterday notably less hawkish on inflation, saying that he is not concerned that growth will get out of hand this year and underplaying his own worries last week about wage settlements.

Interviewed on Reuters Television, Mr George said that inflation will probably be at 2.5 per cent or below in 18 months to two years' time and said that the economy could grow at above 3 per cent in the short-term without higher inflation.

He said he expected consumer spending to pick up this year, but this optimism was balanced by concern about the extent of the economic slowdown in Europe, particularly in Germany and France. These worries were highlighted by yesterday's trade figures.

Britain's deficit with the rest of the world widened in October to its worst level for three years, totalling £1.66 billion compared with £972 million in September, largely because of lower export growth.

The biggest deterioration was in non-European Union trade, but the deficit with Europe also widened.

The Central Statistical Office said that more than half of the deterioration was because of unusually large imports of silver. Even stripping out oil and erratic items, the deficit widened in October.

Economists noted that later figures have already showed that the non-EU deficit narrowed sharply in November and said that October's figures overplayed the extent of Britain's worsening trade performance. However, the CSO said that the deficit was still on a widening trend overall.

Another sign of economic weakness came with the seventeenth consecutive monthly fall in the longer leading cyclical indicator in November, reaching its lowest level since early 1991.

☐ The Bundesbank yesterday cut its repurchase rate by two basis points to 3.73 per cent and there was some speculation that France may today cut its key intervention rate.

Economic view, page 27
Home prices, page 24

Eurostar blow to Tunnel's future

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL'S fight for financial survival was dealt another setback yesterday when new forecasts for the Eurostar high-speed train service revealed that growth in passenger traffic will fall disastrously below its target for the rest of the decade.

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, said that the latest projections delivered by European Passenger Services, the British, French and Belgian state-owned operator of Eurostar, were "hopelessly" behind previous expectations.

The original projections for Eurostar made in 1986 forecast that 16½ million passengers would use the 186mph Channel Tunnel train in its first year of operation, then expected to be 1993, this forecast was later cut to 13 million and then to 6 million in 1994.

In fact, last year, the first full year of Eurostar services, only 3 million passengers used the Waterloo-Paris and Brussels train. This is expected to rise to 5 million this year. Passenger traffic is forecast to reach about ten million by the turn of the century.

As Eurotunnel receives 60 per cent of Eurostar's passenger revenue, the shortfall represents a serious loss of income for the debt-laden company at a time when it is fighting for financial survival.

A safety net built into its contract with EPS means Eurotunnel will receive a minimum of £200 million a year. However, this represents only a fraction of what Eurotunnel hoped to be earning by now. The safety net was only scheduled to be in place for the first few months of operation.

But latest forecasts suggest it will continue to be triggered until 2000 at earliest. "The railways have not delivered what their owners promised us," said Sir Alastair. "The fact is, the railways have failed to get stuck into their market particularly for tourists," he added, blaming poor marketing and high prices.

The EPS news came as Eurotunnel announced 1995 turnover of about £280 million. Sir Alastair said turnover this year was likely to grow at least 50 per cent to about £420 million, still less than the £500 million forecast in the October 1994 rights issue prospectus.

Pennington, page 25

Morton: "poor marketing"

Wontners to back Forte in bid battle

By Eric Reguly

THE Wontner family, the controlling shareholder of the Savoy Hotel group, has come out in support of Forte, its old enemy which is fighting a takeover attempt by Granada.

Granada has said it would sell Forte's 68 per cent equity stake in the Savoy if its £3.8 billion hostile offer for Forte succeeds. The Wontners fear that Granada will try to break the structure that gives them voting control in spite of having only a relatively small piece of the equity.

Lord Thurso, one of the two Wontner nominees on the Savoy board, said: "It would suit the family if Forte won. It means that the family block could not be challenged." The Wontners support for Forte would have been unimaginable a few years ago. Forte launched a takeover bid for the Savoy in 1981. The struggle lasted until 1994, when Forte reshaped the Savoy's board and management team.

Forte, if it remains independent, said it will distribute its Savoy shares to its shareholders. The Savoy predicted that pretax profits for 1985 would increase 165 per cent to £11.4 million. The annual dividend will be doubled to £4 million, eqivalent to 14p for the A shares and 7p for the B shares, which have 20 times the voting power.

Pennington, page 25

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British Gas plea for freer market

Christine Buckley

BRITISH GAS, which will supply household electricity when the market opens to full competition in 1998, yesterday called for new power suppliers to be largely free from accountability on service standards.

The company, which last year lost its charter mark for public service and which received a record number of complaints from its customers, said that the electricity regulator planned too many restrictions for new suppliers.

Derek Meachem, business development manager for British Gas's electricity division, told an Office of Electricity Regulation seminar in Birmingham that there was a danger of over-regulation. He questioned "whether it is necessary to report on the standards of performance. The consumer will find out the standards of service." He added: "With true competition there will be little need for such regulation."

The electricity regulator plans to make new suppliers report on their standards of service such as response to complaints and consumer satisfaction.

British Gas is looking at ways to provide a combined gas and electricity package to customers and to be a key player in the 1998 market. It is anxious to counter the erosion of its market share in gas supply and Mr Meachem told the meeting that it was critical for the electricity industry to drive ahead with plans for 1998.

ADRIAN BROOKS

The United Road Transport Union and Scottish Amicable have launched a £20 a month personal pension plan for members. With David Higginbottom, general secretary of the URTU, in the cab are, left, John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, and Brian Wilson, Labour MP for Cunnighame North.

Trend in home prices still down despite some gains

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

HOUSE PRICES in the UK fell in the final quarter of last year despite rises in four of the country's 12 regions, according to a survey published today. The average price paid was £61,127.

The Halifax, Britain's largest lender, says that house prices fell by 0.6 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1995, compared with a 1 per cent fall in the previous quarter. The society adds that house prices are now 1.5 per cent lower than in the final quarter of 1994.

Three of the four regions to record modest house price gains in the fourth quarter of 1995 are still below where they were a year ago. The North, for example, was up 0.7 per cent in the last three months of the year but down 1.7 per cent on the same period in 1994. The South West, up 0.3 per cent on the quarter, is 2 per cent down on a year ago. The notable exception is Northern Ireland where quarterly house prices rose by 4.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent over the year fuelled by the peace process.

Of the three Northern regions, house prices in Yorkshire and Humberside fell sharpest at the end of 1995, by 1 per cent, "continuing the latest downward trend which started in spring 1994. Over the year prices in these regions have fallen by 2.5 per cent," the Halifax says.

Market analysts believe that the latest quarterly regional house price survey by the Halifax indicates a healthier outlook for 1996. The Halifax is sticking to its forecast 2 per cent increase in house prices for this year with transactions up by 10 per cent.

The continuing weakness of the housing market was also highlighted yesterday with news that the number of dwellings started in November, by the private sector and by housing associations and local authorities, fell to 11,900 from 12,400 in October. Over the past three months, 36,900 dwellings were begun, a drop of 22 per cent on the same three months a year ago.

Taking seasonally adjusted figures for private housing starts, November saw a small rise to 10,200 from 9,700 in October, but 24 per cent down on November 1994. Private starts in the three months to November were down 16.6 per cent on the previous three months, 26.8 per cent down on a year ago, and at their lowest since the three-month period to January 1993.

Michael Saunders, UK economist with Salomon Brothers, said that housing starts are a reasonable leading indicator of economic growth as a whole because they tend to capture the impact of base rate changes before other sectors of the economy.

British Energy may move into gas

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITISH Energy, the company set up to run the nuclear industry's most modern reactors, indicated yesterday it may be in other energy markets such as gas within two years, though it denied nuclear power is in crisis.

The company said it was ruling out no options for future development after its announcement last month that it is abandoning plans for the construction of any further nuclear power stations.

BEn's prospectus is likely to be issued in late spring, before the Government's flotation in June or July of the advanced gas-cooled reactors and the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor, leaving the Magnox reactors in the public sector.

Giving evidence yesterday to the Commons' all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee, BEn gave a clear indication that it is likely soon to move away from a complete reliance on nuclear power as its sole means of generating electricity for sale.

Robert Hawley, the chief executive of BEn, formed from Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, told MPs the timing of the sale meant it needed to decide its future strategy, including moving into related areas such as gas, "within one to two years".

BEn officials insisted that last month's decision to withdraw its application to build a new station at Sizewell C and to let lapse its planning consent for a further station at Hinkley Point C did not mean that no further nuclear stations would ever be built in Britain — though MPs viewed these statements sceptically.

In written evidence to the committee, BEn played down the impact of the move: "Nuclear power in the UK is not in crisis. Nuclear Electric's latest nuclear plant, the Sizewell B PWR, is performing well and has a planned operating life to take it to 2035."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Classic Bloodstock action group formed

A FORMER Conservative MP is to help to form an action group for dissatisfied shareholders in two Classic Bloodstock companies, the racing investment group that has raised nearly £5 million from about 7,000 investors. Classic Watch, which will "monitor closely" the financial health of Classic Bloodstock and Classic Bloodstock II, was launched yesterday by Tom Benyon. Mr Benyon founded the Guild of Shareholders and also heads the Society of Names, an umbrella group representing a number of action groups whose members lost hundreds of millions of pounds at Lloyd's of London. Mr Benyon is to attend an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on January 25 at Charnwood Stables.

Classic Bloodstock, which has been subject to a DTI investigation and incurred an automatic £1,000 penalty from Companies House for the late filing of its accounts, spent more than £800,000 in mailing glossy brochures to investors of privatisation issues.

Kingfisher in £60m deal

KINGFISHER, the Comet to B&Q retail group, has acquired a 20 per cent stake in But, France's fourth largest electrical chain through Darty, its French subsidiary. Kingfisher is paying nearly £60 million for the holding. Under the terms of the agreement, Kingfisher has the right to acquire the remaining 80 per cent in two years' time. The purchase reflects Kingfisher's strategy of building its operations into lead positions in attractive markets. But has a 5.1 per cent share of the French electricals market, compared with Darty's12.9 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Motorola shares fall

SHARES in Motorola were battered for the second day, casting a pall on Wall Street, after the communications equipment group yesterday confirmed investors' fears about its shrinking profits. Motorola's fourth-quarter profits fell short of Wall Street expectations, sliding 16 per cent to $432 million from $515 million even though sales rose to $7.3 billion from $6.5 billion. Earnings per share dipped to 72 cents from 87 cents, below analysts' forecasts of 88 cents. Annual net earnings were $1.78 billion, compared with $1.56 billion. The shares fell $4.25 to $49.25.

Fokker orders lift off

FOKKER, the troubled Dutch aircraft manufacturer owned by Germany's Daimler-Benz industrial group, received new orders for 63 aircraft in 1995, compared with 50 in 1994, the company said. The 63 firm orders comprised 16 for the Fokker 100, 31 for the smaller Fokker 70, and 16 for turboprops. "Fokker sees the significant increase in the amount of orders it has won in 1995 as confirmation of the upswing in demand from the airline market and an endorsement that its products are in tune with the requirements of the airlines," said the company.

Gold beats $400 level

AGGRESSIVE US fund buying lifted the gold price above the $400 an ounce level yesterday for the first time since August 1993. Dealers report active trading, which, at best, reached $401.75. At the afternoon fix, the price was set at $400. In later trading, it eased to $398.75, still $3 higher on the day. Analysts had long expected gold to breach the $400 level. However, dealers said that the resilience of gold's swift advance will be tested tomorrow when technical market factors associated with option trading come into play. Silver rose 6 cents to 557 cents an ounce.

Shaftesbury expands

SHAFTESBURY, the property investment group, has extended its Covent Garden estate in London with the £2.6 million purchase of eight shops with self-contained office and residential accommodation. The freeholds, which front Monmouth and Shelton streets, are opposite those bought by the company in June. Current income from the new purchase is around £230,000 a year. Shaftesbury has now invested about £17 million in the 33 shops and restaurants that comprise the Covent Garden estate. The purchase reflects the group's strategy of focusing on retail and tourist locations.

CRH buys again

CRH, the international building materials group based in Ireland, announced developments worth Ir£38 million — in addition to a Ir£30 million investment in Poland announced last October and the acquisitions in the US and Canada, announced last month, worth a total Ir£16.7 million. The latest investments comprise the Ir£11.6 million acquisition of another 23 branches by CRH's Keyline builders' merchants subsidiary in Britain in six separate transactions; acquisitions totalling Ir£12.4 million in mainland Europe; and Ir£14 million spending on production facilities in the US.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.69	15.19
Belgium Fr	48.84	44.54
Canada $	2.217	2.057
Cyprus Cyp£	0.741	0.686
Denmark Kr	9.24	8.44
Finland Mkk	7.31	6.86
France Fr	8.05	7.40
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.61	11.61
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2900	4.6800
Italy Lira	2540.00	2385.00
Japan Yen	176.60	160.60
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.651	2.421
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.41	9.61
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.37
Spain Pta	194.50	181.50
Sweden Kr	10.82	10.02
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	87671.0
USA $	1.645	1.515

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AT&T plans to dial into British homes

By Eric Reguly

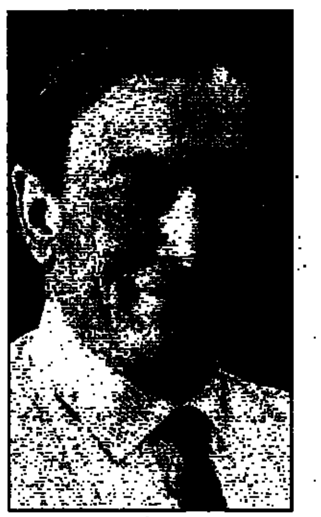
AT&T, the largest American phone company, said it plans to launch a residential service in Britain next year and hinted that the management changes at Cable and Wireless may present it with market opportunities.

AT&T had held talks with Lord Young of Graffham, the former executive chairman of C&W, and James Ross, the former chief executive, about buying C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications. The talks failed because of disagreements over value. C&W's replacements, who are yet to be appointed, may be more willing to sell.

Merrill Tutton, the UK president of AT&T, would not comment on whether the company would again try to buy Mercury.

AT&T yesterday announced the sponsorship of three new plays, including the Royal Shakespeare Company's upcoming *Slaughter City*.

Charities share Midland's £1m



Whitson: £75,000 donation

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

THREE charities will share £1 million from Midland Bank over the next three years after successfully pitching for the bank's charitable donations in a highly competitive tender.

After a two-month selection process, in which Midland invited 15 charities to produce aggressive pitches, the bank picked Age Concern, the National Deaf Children's Society, and Shelter. It plans to give £180,000 a year to Shelter, £100,000 a year to Age Concern, and £65,000 to Age Concern.

The charities were picked under the bank's new policy of supporting the areas of youth, the elderly and disability. The agreements with the three will make Midland the largest corporate donor to each of the charities.

Shelter will use Midland's money to set up a "Network" service to provide advice to young people. It estimates that 90,000 young people will benefit. Age Concern will launch a "Safe & Warm" campaign through which it hopes to improve the lives of 25,000 people.

The National Deaf Children's Society will try to help 35,000 deaf children through a national mobile exhibition of technology and information.

The bank's former policy was to give amounts of an average £1,000 to a large number of charities.

The move comes on the heels of the well received decision last month by Keith Whitson, chief executive, to stop sending Christmas cards to customers and contacts and to give £75,000 to charities instead.

[illegible]

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	*Six months ended 31 Dec 1995 R000	*Six months ended 31 Dec 1994 R000	Year ended 30 June 1995 R000
Revenue			
Income from investments	8 860	10 488	21 053
Surplus on realisation of investments	-	626	6 075
Interest received	89	530	691
Sundry revenue	-	4	19
	8 949	11 648	27 838
Expenditure	1 918	1 834	4 389
Administration and general	977	997	2 088
Exploration	850	837	2 079
Interest paid	91	-	222
Profit before tax	7 031	9 814	23 449
Tax	-	-	-
Profit after tax	7 031	9 814	23 449
Earnings per share - cents	23	32	77
Dividends - per share - cents	17	17	52
- absorbing - R000	5 208	5 208	15 930
- times covered	1,4	1,9	1,5

*Unaudited

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	*At 31 Dec 1995 R000	*At 31 Dec 1994 R000	At 30 June 1995 R000
Investments	167 564	149 708	166 609
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net current (liabilities)/assets	(6 217)	6 903	(7 085)
Current assets	3 443	13 176	6 436
Cash	-	8 812	872
Other	3 443	4 364	5 564
Less current liabilities	9 660	6 273	13 521
Bank loan	3 351	-	1 520
Other	6 309	6 273	12 001
	161 482	156 746	159 659
Share capital	88 425	88 425	88 425
Reserves	73 057	68 321	71 234
	161 482	156 746	159 659
Investments			
Listed - Market value	491 898	618 302	513 205
- Excess over book value	325 610	469 920	347 872
- Book value	166 288	148 382	165 333
Unlisted - Book value	1 276	1 326	1 276
Shares in issue unchanged at 30 635 201			
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1 687	2 138	1 745

*Unaudited

NOTES:

Final Dividend.
Dividend No. 89 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1995, absorbing R10 722 000, was declared on 1 August 1995 and paid on 20 September 1995 to members registered at the close of business on 18 August 1995.

Prospects.
Profit after tax for the period under review was affected by lower investment income as a result of reduced dividend distributions by the gold mining companies in which the Group is invested. A modest improvement in earnings is expected in the second half of the current financial year mainly due to an anticipated increase in the surplus on realisation of investments.

Auditor's Review.
In terms of the Listings Requirements of The Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the interim report of this company has been reviewed, but not audited, by Deloitte & Touche. Their unqualified review report is available for inspection at the registered office of the company.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 90 of 17 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 26 January 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 21 February 1996, or where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 20 February 1996.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 27 January to 2 February 1996, inclusive.

On behalf of the board:
J.G. Hopwood)
(Chairman)) Directors
J.W.D. Dowsley)

75 Fox Street
Johannesburg
2001

10 January 1996

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

DOMINO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
WARWICK FILM PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
VICEROY FILMS LIMITED
The INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, R W J Long of Begbie Norton & Partners, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ was appointed Liquidator of the above named Companies by the Members on 21st December 1995.
Dated 22nd December 1995
R W J LONG, Liquidator

In-Position Construction Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Sceptre House 169/173 Regent Street London W1R 7FB on the 18th January 1996 at 11.00AM for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Forms of proxy to be used at the Meeting must be lodged at the offices of Morton Thornton & Co. Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1HD, the registered office of the Company, not later than 12.00 noon on the 17th January 1996.

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the Company will be available for inspection by creditors at 49 London Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1HJ between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on the 16th January 1996 and 17th January 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M W Deaton, DIRECTOR
Dated this 18th December 1995

MAIN-CHAIN LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 24th January 1996 at 11.30am for the purposes provided for in the Section 98 et seq.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated 8th January 1996
B T DAVIES, Director.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TOWN & COUNTRY RATING & RENT REVIEW CONSULTANTS (NORTHERN) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 12 John Street, London WC1N 2EB on 9th February 1996 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Peter Gotham of Messrs. Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated the 4th January 1996
By order of the Board
M. Mulvaney, Director

K. R. ROBERTS (NORTH WEST) LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 I, Richard Ian Williamson of Campbell Crossley & Davis, 348/350 Lytham Road, Blackpool, Lancs hereby give notice that on 4th January 1996 I was appointed as liquidator of K. R. Roberts (North West) Limited by its members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before Friday, 9th February 1996 to send in writing their full names, addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned Richard Ian Williamson A.C.A. of Campbell Crossley and Davis, 348/350 Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1DW the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by Notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such Notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 4th January 1996
Liquidator Richard Ian Williamson

Mainstar Services Limited

Registered Number: 1716678. Trading Name: Mainstar Services Limited. Nature of Business: Electrical Wholesalers. Trade Classification: 15. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 5 January 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): National Westminster Bank. Type of Security: Fixed and Floating Charge. Date of Security: 24 April 1990. Names of persons appointed: L A Manning AND I P Phillips OF BUCHLER PHILLIPS, 84 Grosvenor St London W1X 9DF. Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 2636)

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS
CAROUSEL (PARTY PLAN) LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: Unit 15 and Unit 11, Nonsuch Industrial Estate, Kiln Lane, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1DH.
Company Number: 2284020.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The George Hotel, Crawley, West Sussex on 18 January 1996 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Touche Ross & Co of 63 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1BQ during the two business days preceding the above meeting.
Dated: 5 January 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE LIQUIDATOR
J R D Smith, Liquidator.

Silvara Print Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Peter A Lawrence of Moore Stephens Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF, give notice that on 21 December 1995 I was appointed Liquidator of Silvara Print Limited by resolution of the members which was ratified by the creditors on 4th January 1996.
Dated: 4 January 1996
Peter Lawrence, LIQUIDATOR

RE:- GRAHAM PULFORD
- A SOLICITOR

Notice is hereby given that an Application has been made against Graham Pulford (a Solicitor) to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal pursuant to Section 47 Solicitors Act 1974. The said Application will be heard by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 26th March 1996 at the Court Room, 60 Carey Street, Chancery Lane, London WC2 when the said Graham Pulford should attend. Failing appearance by the said Graham Pulford the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may proceed in his absence to make such Orders as the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal shall think fit. A copy of the application and the documents in support may be obtained from the Clerk to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, 227/228 The Strand, London WC2A 1BA.
Dated the 4th day of January 1996.
Geoffrey Williams, Applicant
Cartwrights Adams & Black
36 West Bute Street,
Cardiff CF1 5UA.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MERIDIAN HOUSE PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named company will be held at The Lake Hotel, 234 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire on Monday 22 January 1996 at 11.00a.m. to consider the Joint Administrators' proposals.

Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD no later than 12.00 noon on the 19th day of January 1996.
Rule 2.2(1)

Subject as follows, at a meeting of creditors in Administration proceedings a person is entitled to vote on if:-

a. he has given to the Administrators, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt which he claims to be due him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the following provisions of this rule, and

b. there has been lodged with the Administrators any proxy which he intends to be used on his behalf.

N J Hamilton-Smith,
and D J Mason,
Joint Administrators
DATED: 5th of January 1996

Thames Lodge Developments Ltd

Registered Number: 2294548. Trading Name: Same as Company Name. Nature of Business: Shopping Centre Operators. Trade Classification: PA8630 Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 8 January 1996. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Guardian Assurance plc. Type of Security: Fixed and Floating Charge Debenture. Date of Security: 17 July 1992. Name of persons appointed: L A Manning and S V Freakley both of BUCHLER PHILLIPS, 84 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DF, Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 8291.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

MCSWEENEY (formerly DOS SANTOS) MARIA CELESTE ANTUNES late of 40B Aldridge Road Villas, Westminster, London, W11 1BN. Died 27th October 1995. Particulars to Arnold Tickner & Co of 4 Wrights Lane, Kensington, London, W8 6TA before 12th March 1996.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Classic Bloodstock action group forme

Kingfisher in £60m de

Motorola shares fall

Fokker orders lift

Gold beats $400

Shaftesbury exp

CRH buys again

☐ Deadline nears for energy fiasco ☐ Protecting interests of cross-Channel investors ☐ Split shares past their sell-by date

The dangers of a gas leak

☐ THE politicians' attempts to introduce competition into gas and electricity are heading for such a disastrous debut that there must be a few faint hearts there *praying they will not still be in government when it arrives.*

Open competition in domestic electricity in 1998 appears no nearer, with the industry deliberately dragging its feet because the *companies can see no advantage* in having their cosy monopolies prised opened like an oyster. After the mess made of the competitive market for large users in 1994, one can sympathise.

The *situation in gas is considerably* worse, because the deadline is almost here. Now TransCo, ordered to conduct a limited trial from All Fools Day, has flipped open the calendar, counted on its fingers and proved it *cannot* be done.

It is tempting *to blame* British Gas, TransCo's owner, if only because blaming British Gas is the fashionable thing these days. But it is clear the Government, for ideological reasons, is forcing the newly demerged business to *run before it can walk.*

According *to* Harry Moulson at TransCo, which *in the end has* to make competition — and the pipeline system — work, Britain is trying to do in two years what has taken America ten. All the same, Europe's fourth largest computer system has been equipped with the world's tenth largest database containing more than 18 million meter addresses.

But while TransCo is *about* ready to begin chasing down teething problems, the computer trials are being held up by the Trade Department's failure to issue licences to the 40 or so *companies anxious to compete to supply gas. Chris Rees, of* Touche Ross, has been drafted in by Ofgas, the industry regulator, to report on whether it is still possible to open up the pipelines on April 1.

Ernst & Young, TransCo's advisers, warned *that the new computers should be tested for a* minimum of four months to ensure shipments of gas could be matched to the right customers. But Mr Rees has been asked to say whether it is safe to proceed when the full system has been operational for just 31 days.

Mr Moulson says it is just not worth the risk. He should know. His business has got it wrong twice before.

The real danger is that TransCo will *not be able to* match the volumes pumped into the system by shippers with those billed to customers. TransCo wants Ofgas to ration *the* pace at which customers can *switch suppliers so that it can* verify meter readings.

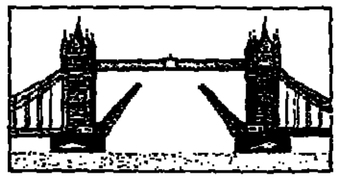
If customers are left to take their own readings, the temptation to under-read when changing to lower-cost supplier might prove irresistible. There will *inevitably be glitches in a list* containing more than 18 million addresses. In fact, there is no particular reason why any of the first batch of gas bills that go out this autumn should be correct.

No light at end of Eurotunnel

☐ SO Eurotunnel would like a Stock Exchange inquiry into just who was playing ducks and drakes with its share price earlier *this week. It could perhaps be filed next to the matching report from* the Paris Bourse on who was rigging that market ahead of the 1994 rights issue.

Rather, it will not, because there

PENNINGTON



never was a firm conclusion *reached by the Bourse, and there* is going to be *precious* little action in London either.

Eurotunnel shares fell after rumours that the company was bust, which is curious because most of us had come to that *conclusion years ago. The rumours spoke of imminent* receivership, furiously denied. This would have required the banks to write off large chunks of group debt, heading towards £9 billion and rising.

Those bankers are going to *have to write off much of the debt* anyway *as part of whatever* financial package emerges. Eurotunnel's shares are like the cartoon character, running out of road and over a cliff, who *remains poised in mid-air for a* while until he realises his plight and plummets to the ground. The impossibility of valuing the shares on any rational basis, rather than any organised *market skullduggery*, more likely *explains the sharp gyrations in* the price once the rumour mills started to grind. Investors, who have given up on any dividends and accepted they face heavy dilution, will want to know what *will happen to their perks of free travel on the tunnel* after the refinancing. This is the only real return they have seen, and to some it has proved an attractive one. The board has a duty to shareholders to ensure this, too, *is not to be diluted.*

In all this gloom, it is easy to overlook the project's achievements. The tunnel has meant a huge expansion for the cross-Channel market, pre-Christmas bookings running some 30 per cent ahead despite the *franc fort.*

Negotiations *to create a new financial structure under which* Eurotunnel can operate at a profit will be long and tortuous, with 200 banks and a healthy arbitrage market in that dis*tressed debt to contend with.* The Eurotunnel board will be aided, paradoxically, by the implied threat of receivership if they fail.

Savoyards stake their claim

☐ WHILE the City may be holding fire, one interested party has already taken firm sides in the Granada/Forte scuffle. The *Savoy Group would prefer Forte to emerge as the victor.*

That view is understandable, if self-serving. Granada has said Forte's stake in the hotelier is one of the underperforming assets first out of the door if it wins and *is already talking to buyers. One of these, it is accepted, is Prince* al-Waleed, the Saudi saviour of Euro Disney and Canary Wharf.

While the Prince might be regarded as a relatively benign purchaser, his arrival or that of any other mega-millionaire can *only mean one thing: the end of the Savoy as an independent entity.* He would be required to make a formal offer for the rest; in any case, no future owner is going to want most of the share capital but

a minority of the votes. The o
guard at the Savoy held off Lo
Forte for the best part of tw
decades because there were li
its to what he, as head of a pub
company, could push throu
his shareholders. The Prince,
whoever, will merely throw su
ficient cash at those Swiss fun
with swing shareholdings un
they sell out.

By contrast, Forte's plans if
survives are to distribute t
shares to its own investors p
rata, so giving *the Savoyards* t
best of both worlds, a wid
shareholder base but continui
control through the B share
This is simply not on. Now is t
time for that archaic split-*sha*
structure to be dismantled, or
least for the board to start mov
in this direction. That structu
masks the true value of the mo
widely held A shares, making
more difficult for Forte investo
to weigh the Granada off
against their board's intention

Magic formula

☐ THE Saatchi & Saatchi agen
has marked the first anniversa
of the split with the brothers
robust fashion. "It's *true,* t
'magic' left Saatchi & Saatchi
January 11th 1995," a corpora
brochure admits, referring to o
of the bloodiest days for ma
defections. "As usual, it came ba
at 9.30am the following mornin

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Loadmasters: Chris Thomas, left, the managing director of Mercury Airfreight Holdings, which has bought Virgin Mailing & Distribution, the wrapping and mailing division of Virgin Aviation Services, with Alan Chambers, the managing director of Virgin Aviation Services. Virgin will emerge with a 20 per cent interest in the enlarged group

United pub merger deal near

SHARES in United Breweries, the public house group that completed a restructuring last April, were *suspended at 1½p at the company's request after it emerged that* a reverse takeover is in the pipeline (writes Philip Pangalos).

United, which has an estate of 140 mostly tenanted pubs in London, the Home Counties and Thames Valley, said it is in advanced talks which, if successful, will lead to the acquisition of a *company that owns and operates a public house estate of a similar size to its* current one.

Industry experts expect United, which is capitalised at £11.1 million and is based in Buckingham, to merge with an unquoted pubs company based in a similar part of the country and with a largely *tenanted* estate.

Sainsbury chief's role spli to bolster grocery busines

By Sarah Bagnall

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, is to split the role of chairman and chief executive and has named Dino Adriano as heir apparent to the post of chief executive of the UK supermarket business.

One of the top-level management changes revealed by the company yesterday is that David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive, is relinquishing the latter job, which *is to be split into two separate posts. The first — and most important —* is chief executive of the UK supermarket business, a job that ultimately will be filled by Mr Adriano, now chairman of Homebase, the group's DIY chain. The second chief executive post covers Homebase and the group's American businesses, which include Shaw's.

Mr Sainsbury said: "We *have decided to have two chief* executives because the UK *supermarket business is a very substantial part of the* group and we need to have the chief executive totally focused on the business." The UK supermarket business accounts for about 80 per cent of group sales. Mr Adriano, 52, takes over his new post at the end of 1997. In the interim, Tom Vyner, joint managing director, *will hold it with Mr Adriano as his deputy.*

Analysts welcomed Mr *Adriano's appointment* but were disappointed by the two-year delay. Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The disappointment is that Vyner is staying on so long. Typically for the business, which is conservative and plodding, it's a slow *step in the right direction.*"

Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Strauss Turnbull, agreed:

"Swifter action would
been *preferable.* Sainsbu
often criticised as not rea
quickly enough and th
another example. On bal
it is good news but it c
have been better."

Mr Sainsbury will be ex
tive chairman in charg
strategy, with the two
executives reporting direc
him. The company also
nounced that Da
Quarmby, joint managin
rector, will be responsibl
business development. S
bury's is looking inter
and externally for a candi
to fill the second chief ex
tive post.

The retailer is due to
nounce a trading stateme
the end of January, w
analysts widely expect t
cautious and reveal it is lo
market share. Sainsbu
shares fell 1p to 388p.

Dixons disappoints with 41% rise at half time

By Sarah Bagnall

DIXONS, the electrical stores group, yesterday revealed a smaller than expected rise in interim profits and a Christmas trading statement that dampened market confidence in the retail sector.

Pre-tax profits rose 41 per cent to £37.5 million in the 28 weeks to November 11. *Analysts' forecasts had clustered around the £35 million to £38 million mark* but in the run-up to Christmas a couple of stockbrokers had pushed up their forecasts to £44 million.

Although analysts' predictions for the half year proved over-optimistic, most maintained their full-year forecasts of about £135 million. Disap*pointment at the size of the increase in the interim dividend* contributed to a 14½p fall in the share price to 409½p.

The company said sales in the first eight weeks of the second half, which include Christmas, were up 23 per cent overall and 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The advances were fuelled by *strong* sales of *personal* computers. Dixons said gross margins were similar to last year.

The first half saw strong sales from each of the group's four retail operations: Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link, the communications specialist.

The 350 Dixons stores lifted sales by 11 per cent to £262 million. A refurbishment programme helped lift like-for-like sales 9 per cent. *Before refurbishment the stores were* recording like-for-like sales declines of about 2 per cent.

Currys sales rose 15 per cent to £464 million, while like-for-like sales advanced 10 per cent. Dixons is moving Currys to out-of-town sites. It has 199 out-of-town superstores and sees room for a total of 250. Of the 182 high street Currys stores, up to 100 will close as *they fail to meet profit targets or fall into the catchment area of new superstores.*

PC World sales leapt 83 per cent to £93 million and like-for-like sales rose 24 per cent.

Seven new stores lifted the total to 21, and there are plans to open a further 30 over the next couple of years.

The Link made its first contribution to sales, with the 32 stores achieving turnover of £6 million.

The interim dividend, due on March 4, was lifted 14 per cent to 2.05p. Earnings were 5.9p a share, up 59 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Mixed sales for Whitbread

By Alasdair Murray

WHITBREAD, the brewing and hotel group, reported yesterday that Christmas sales overall were ahead of the previous year, but that results in the rural businesses had been disappointing.

The City interpreted the results as broadly neutral, but *the share price fell 8p to 673p.* Analysts are forecasting full-year profits of about £280 million, up 2 per cent on 1995.

Peter Jarvis, the chief executive, said that high street and retail park businesses, which include TGI Friday, Threshers and Pizza Hut performed strongly. Out-of-town pubs and restaurants, including Brewers Fayre and Beefeater, were adversely affected by the weather and Christmas rush.

The brewery side of the business recorded a strong increase in sales. The hotel operations, which include Travel Inn and the recently purchased Marriott chains, continued to trade well.

Whitbread's recently agreed acquisition of Forte's roadside businesses for £1.05 billion, if the Granada bid for Forte is rejected, continues Whitbread's expansion into *hotels* and *restuarant, although rumours that it is* looking to sell its brewing division have been denied.

Tempus, page 26

Brent Walker 'mugged'

By Jon Ashworth

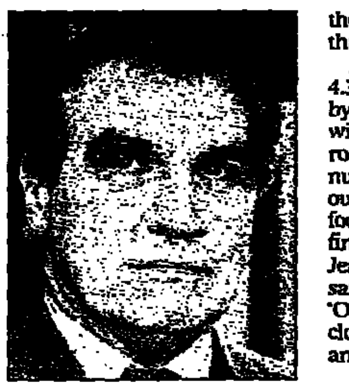
BANKERS who ousted George Walker from the helm of his leisure empire nearly five years ago, behaved like "the *mafia*" and were guilty of a corporate mugging, a television documentary claims tonight.

Mr Walker, who claims to have lost £30 million as a result of the banks' actions, remains deeply embittered by the events of May 1991 which led to his removal as chief executive of Brent Walker.

Speaking in *My Brilliant Career* (BBC2, 8pm), Mr Walker claims banks were falling over themselves to lend him money *during the heady* days of the 1980s. He recalls: "Everyone wanted to lend money. Please borrow my money. *Please take my money off me.*"

Mr Walker and two former Brent Walker directors talk candidly about the late night meeting at the company's Trocadero headquarters in Piccadilly, London, during which representatives of Brent Walker's banks demanded Mr Walker's removal. They presented a letter to the board stating that the banks, owed £1.5 billion, would withdraw their support if Mr Walker remained as chief executive.

Alan Bobroff, a director of Brent Walker from 1985 to 1991, tells the BBC: "If we resisted, the directors could be held personally liable for many hundreds of *millions* of *pounds.* We were being mugged. It was a corporate mugging." Mr Walker's wife, Jean, adds: "It was almost like the mafia. We were being threatened."



Walker: bitter

A vote was taken at about 4.30am, and Mr Walker lost *by a margin of one. He and his* wife stood up and left the room. He recalls: "I was numb. I was completely without thought. I just couldn't focus any more. It was the finish of my life. It was gone." Jean Walker adds: "George said: *'I'm dead'*, and *I said:* 'Oh, don't be so silly. One door closes, another one opens' — and that was it."

Mr Walker talks about his trial, and subsequent acquittal on charges of theft and false accounting. He *reflects:* "*There's no doubt* about it. If I had been guilty, I would have gone to prison. It would have destroyed me and my family."

Applicants must be aged 18 or over. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Member HSBC G

first direct

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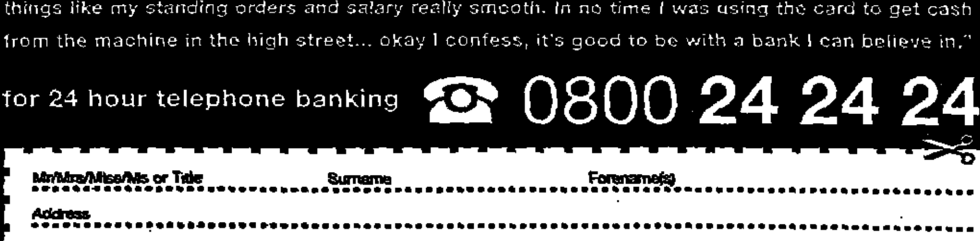

"I'd always resisted the temptation to change banks – I just didn't want the hassle. In the end I spoke to First Direct, because like me they give a full service on a Sunday. I found the freephone number in a press ad, called it and amazingly they took my details in about ten minutes. They put the completed form in the post for me to sign and after sorting my security details, my account was open. I got a Welcome Pack, cheque book and First Direct Card, together with some forms to make moving things like my standing orders and salary really smooth. In no time I was using the card to get cash from the machine in the high street... okay I confess, it's good to be with a bank I can believe in."

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هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

London catches a cold as New York freezes

THE arctic conditions that have brought Wall Street almost to a standstill this week, swept through the London stock market yesterday and share prices fell sharply.

An overnight sell-off that saw the Dow Jones industrial average tumble almost 70 points and evidence of further selling when trading resumed in New York last night sealed London's fate.

Behind the losses on Wall Street is the failure to resolve the deadlock over the US federal budget. After such a strong run of late, it was inevitable that share prices were vulnerable.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down almost 40 points, having had to contend with a gloomy set of economic figures showing Britain's trade gap with the rest of world widening to its worst since December 1992.

In the event, the index closed above its worst, 28.8 down at 3,671.5, with brokers in London banking, perhaps forlornly, on an early rally on Wall Street. By the close a total of 777 million shares had changed hands.

It was inevitable that the battle between Granada and Forte should continue to dominate investors' attention. But there was no sign of the widely predicted dawn raid by Granada on Forte.

One company caught in the crossfire this week is **Whitbread**, which fell a further 6p to 675p, for a two-day deficit of 23p. Whitbread has agreed to buy Forte's roadside operations, including Travelodge, Welcome Break and Happy Eater, for £1.05 billion. The deal is dependent on Forte resisting Granada's £3.8 billion final offer.

As a result, the news that sales and profits at Whitbread during the Christmas season were in line with expectations and ahead of last year was largely ignored. Beer volumes were significantly up and the take-home trade enjoyed a strong performance.

Yesterday the **Forte** share price rose 9p to 360p on turnover of more than 48 million shares. Brokers began taking the view that this week's improved terms from Granada might be enough to tip the battle in its favour.

At one stage, ABN Amro Hoare Govett, Granada's broker, was said to have bid 360p for a block of five million shares. But it is unlikely the purchase was made on behalf of **Granada**, which climbed 16p to 653p.

J Sainsbury lost an early 10p lead to finish 1p cheaper at 388p following confirmation of a series of management changes. Brokers expressed disappointment with the changes, which saw David Sainsbury holding on to both roles of chairman and chief executive. There had been hopes that Dino Adriano would be appointed chief executive.

The other supermarket chains lost ground in line with the rest of the market. **Asda** slipped 1½p to 110p, **Argyll** 9p to 337p, **Kwik Save** 3p to 506p, and **Tesco** 7p to 299p.

Half-year figures from **Dixons**, the electrical good retailer, received a cool reception from the City, leaving the shares 18p down at 406p. A 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £38.9 million was in line with most forecasts. Brokers are predicting a final outcome of between £125 million and £135 million for the full year.

Next failed to make the best of a profits upgrade by BZW and a bumper set of sales figures in the run-up to Christmas, with the price falling 15p to 438p. Sales during the autumn rose 13 per cent, with sales at the Next Directory 17 per cent ahead of the previous year. BZW was impressed with Next's performance and raised its forecast for the full year by an extra £4 million to £122 million.

Kingfisher plans to splash out almost £60 million on buying a 20 per cent stake in BUT, France's fourth largest electrical retailer. Kingfisher is buying the shares from Anfre Venturini, BUT's founder, and will speak for almost 15 per cent of the votes. Kingfisher already owns Darty, the leading French electrical retailer. **Kingfisher** ended 16p lower at 528p.

Eurotunnel managed to claw back Tuesday's losses with a rise of 7p to 84p after revealing it had made the most of holiday traffic over the festive season. Tourist traffic increased 21 per cent to 163,305 vehicles during December, although it meant a drop in freight-carrying vehicles. Fewer trains were run because of the French public workers' strikes.

The group is expected to announce soon that 1995 sales will top £275 million. The current year shows a 50 per cent rise.

Campbell & Armstrong, the building specialist, rose 4p to 20p. **Highland Electronics** has topped up its holding with the purchase of a further 335,518 shares, raising its total to 2.5 million, or 17.3 per cent. City speculators are hoping the next move will be a full bid for the company.

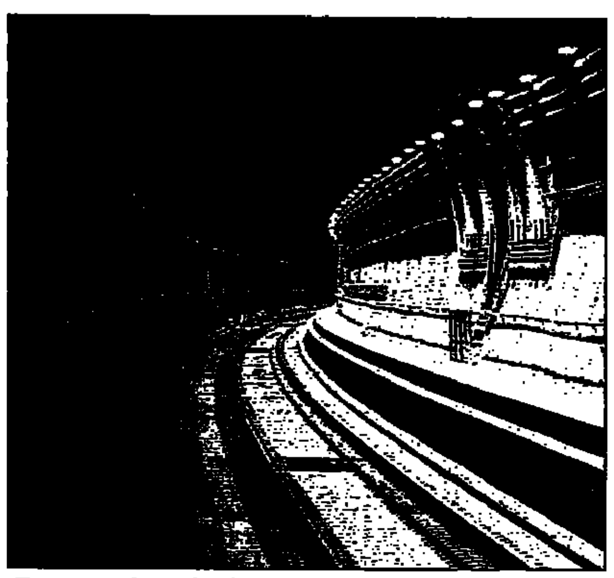
Acorn Computer was a firm market, adding 25p at 238p on news of a development agreement. The group has struck a deal with Oracle to develop reference designs for a series of network computing products.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Worries over the US federal budget deadlock continue to cast a shadow over world bond markets. Even so, bonds in London underperformed compared with other European markets.

At one stage the March series of the Long Gilt threatened to test the important £110 resistance level, but later reduced its deficit to finish £9/32 down on the session at £110 9/32. A total fo 62,000 contracts were completed.

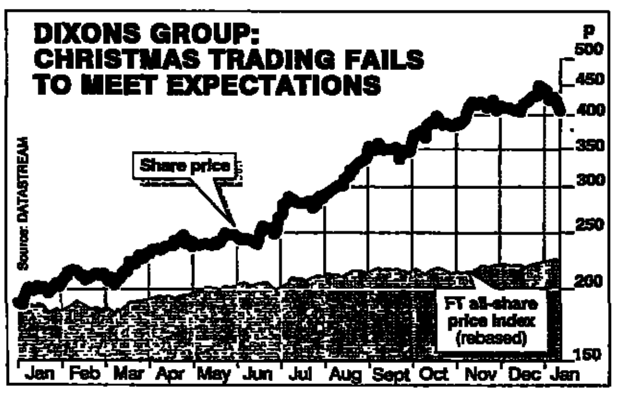
In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished a couple of ticks lower at £102 3/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost a similar amount at £104 7/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street stayed weak in the wake of Tuesday's fall, though leading high-tech stocks regained some strength. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5,098.33, down 33.80 points.



Eurotunnel was back on track on holiday trade reports

Monument Oil & Gas made further headway, adding another 1½p to a year's high of 63¼p in buoyant trading that saw more than three million shares change hands and stretching the rise during the past two days to 5p. Brokers say that a large seller has now completed his business and withdrawn.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5098.33 (-31.80)
S&P Composite 604.99 (-4.46)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20612.32 (-39.76)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10304.63 (-122.57)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 499.21 (-1.68)

Sydney:
AO 2238.2 (-24.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2338.19 (-11.47)

Singapore:
Straits 2362.11 (-11.49)

Brussels:
General 8705.49 (+9.48)

Paris:
CAC-40 1910.11 (-6.18)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 736.50 (-5.50)

London:
FT 30 2725.9 (-12.8)
FT 100 3671.5 (-28.8)
FT-SE Mid 250 4039.5 (-31.4)
FT-SE-A 350 1825.4 (-14.3)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1510.99 (-16.12)
FT A All-Share 1799.91 (-13.44)
FT Non Financials 1903.36 (-14.92)
FT Fixed Interest 114.08 (+0.02)
FT Govt Secs 95.29 (-0.12)
Bargains 31374
SEAQ Volume 804.2m
USM (Datastrm) 188.81 (+0.22)
US$ 1.5452 (-0.0005)
German Mark 2.2225 (-0.0079)
Exchange Index 83.1 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1801
£:SDR n/a
RPI 149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cash Conv Intl	27	...
Century Inns	117	...
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cox Insurance	113	...
Crown Products	55	...
Dmarek	73	- 2
Finsbury Tech (100)	107	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	200	...
Jupiter Split Cap	87	...
Jupiter Split Inc	99½	...
Jupiter Split Units	#59	...
Manx & O'seas	20	- 1
National Grid (204)	196½	+ 1
Northern Petroleum	75	...
Nthn Petlm Wrts	8	...
Polymasc Pharms	134	- 2
Revelation Plcc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3½	...
SkyePharma	7	...
Unicorn Intl (133)	143	...
Victrex	260	...
Viewinn	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ransomes n/p (48)	6	...
SWP Group n/p (2½)	1½	...
Seafield Res n/p (65)	19	...
SkyePharma n/p (4)	5	...
Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25)	3	...
Westbury n/p (150)	25	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Eurodollar 86p (+15p)
Acorn Comp 238p (+25p)
Morland 573p (+20p)
Trinity Intl 376p (+13p)
Church 410p (+13p)
Airtours 418p (+12p)

FALLS:
Filtronic Com 398p (-42p)
Stagecoach 328 (-17p)
Rainford 364p (-18p)
Telspec 825p (-38p)
JBA Hldgs 375p (-15p)
Mitel 403p (-16p)
Vickers 262p (-10)
Bellway 264p (-10p)
Next 437p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Post-prandial blues

THE traditional pre-Christmas cheer from retailers appears to have suffered more than usually from excessive optimism. Only a handful of Britain's retailers have revealed figures for the Christmas period, but sentiment has changed sharply.

Yesterday's trigger was trading statements from Next and Dixons. Neither company released poor figures — both notched up strong underlying sales advances; the problem was that the results were not quite good enough. Next and Dixons are currently the darlings of the retail sector and analysts were expecting a glittering performance for both over the Christmas period.

Evidence of more modest achievements sent analysts back to their calculators to recompute their forecasts for the sector. The biggest fallers were those companies expected to outshine their rivals. Dixons shares shed 4.2 per cent, with Next down 3 per cent, while JJB Sports and Boots also lost ground. For those retailers, such as WH Smith, that are expected to show relatively lucklustre performances, the falls were less pronounced.

Reduced expectations have trimmed the sector's rating in relation to the market. A 10 per cent premium last January grew to a 30 per cent premium at the end of 1995. To sustain such outperformance, retailers needed to produce results impressive enough to justify upgrading profit forecasts. Sadly, the market is now convinced that the consumer continued to watch his purse last month and profit upgrades have been more than outnumbered by markdowns. Although part of the premium was unwound yesterday, the shares still have further to fall.

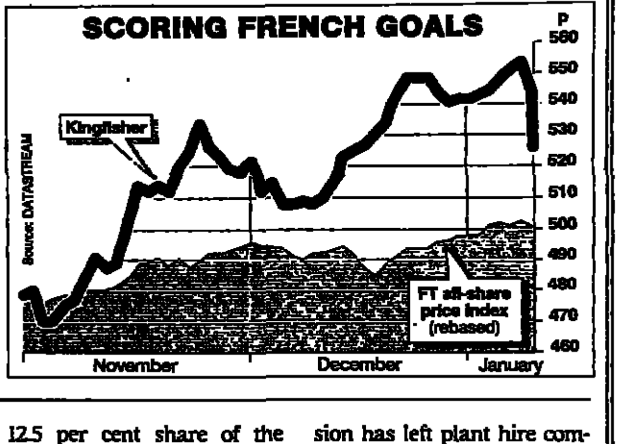
Kingfisher

IN THE short term, the best news from Kingfisher's agreement to buy 20 per cent of BUT, the French retailer, is that sales figures at Darty cannot be all that bad. Speculation was mounting that the recent strike would badly hurt Kingfisher's French electrical retail chain. However, the indications are that Darty held up reasonably well and Kingfisher is prepared to pay a full price to increase its exposure to retailing across the Channel.

The minority stake in BUT holds out the medium-term promise of raising Darty's share of the French electricals market from 12.9 to 18 per cent with the exercise of an option after two years. The curious aspect to the deal is that BUT's main strength is in furniture, where it is number two with 7.7 per cent of the French market, a retailing sector where Kingfisher has only fringe experience via B&Q.

Kingfisher is paying more than 19 times historic earnings for BUT, a discount retailer serving the French new-home buyer. The high multiple is expected to fall to the mid-teens but it will be years before Kingfisher can make cost savings by merging the two businesses.

If Kingfisher had announced the acquisition of 5 per cent of a German electrical retailer, celebrations would be in order. However, it is hoping for a French retail recovery and the decision to invest in furniture suggest its French ambitions are larger than expected.



Whitbread

RUMOURS of the death of brewing at Whitbread are premature. The company's dash into the leisure business looks set to continue with, or without, Forte's roadside businesses. But Whitbread does not need to sell breweries to fund the £1 billion purchase of Happy Eaters and Little Chefs.

In fact, Whitbread's strong brewing performance over the past year encourages the view that the company is seeking to expand further its beer interests. Speculation has centred on Carlsberg-Tetley, joint owned by Allied Domecq and Carlsberg. Should Granada succeed in its bid for Forte, denying Whitbread all but the scraps of the roadside business, the company could well opt for a brewer. Even with the Forte businesses, Whitbread probably has the strength to buy a brewer as well.

Only two years ago Whitbread expected to see its 12.5 per cent share of the brewing market slowly erode. But, in the face of competition, Whitbread has improved its share to 14 per cent and continues to increase sales while keeping a lid on costs. Whitbread shares have drifted as the initial Forte excitement wore off, providing investors an opportunity to buy one of the better shares in the sector.

Vibroplant

VIBROPLANT has struck a better bargain than expected with the sale of its American plant hire business, but Vibroplant is left with the problem of how to invest the proceeds which well exceed the market worth of the group. American Hi-Lift, which rents cherry pickers, has enjoyed a rapid recovery over the past year with profits in the first half exceeding the UK level, where margins have been eroded by competition.

The UK construction recession has left plant hire companies scrambling for business and since September prices have fallen by 5 per cent. With no sign of an upturn, Vibroplant needs to increase its market share, currently a mere 2-3 per cent. Hence yesterday's deal, which should leave the plant hire group with net cash of some £15 million after tax, ample funds for the purchase of rival businesses.

Vibroplant's rating has suffered from the construction recession and at 81p, the shares are at a discount of more than 40 per cent to net asset value, including the American cash. The company is only renting 60-70 per cent of its fleet, so any new business from acquisitions should provide an immediate boost to profits. If Vibroplant spends its money well, the share discount will narrow, but it must act quickly or the cash will be a further drag on earnings.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	896-895	May	1013-1011
May	920-919	Jul	unq
Jul	939-938	Sep	--
Sep	958-957	Dec	--
Dec	977-976		
Mar	999-998		Volume: 780b

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1845-1838	Sep	1564-1563
Mar	1748-1747	Nov	1555-1550
May	1634-1633	Jan	1545-1530
Jul	1581-1580		Volume: 2665

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	308.0-07.2
Spot: 389.5		Dec	301.5-00.7
Mar	367.7-67.1	Mar	300.0-99.2
May	349.6-49.0	May	299.5-98.2
Aug	335.0-34.5		Volume: 2709

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 9

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	103.72	115.37	118.90
(+/-)	-6.00	-6.63	-1.69
Eng/Wales:	103.66	116.20	117.03
(+/-)	-6.15	-6.11	-3.16
(%)	-39.0	-16.0	-10.0
Scotland:	104.16	112.31	125.47
(+/-)	-2.64	-7.21	-0.04
(%)	+134.0	+81.0	+206.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.55	-0.65
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.40	-0.50
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.95	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	19.60	-0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	19.15	-0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 177 (-2)	O: 179 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	175 (-11)	177 (-11)
Non EEC 1H Jan	173 (-7)	175 (-7)
Non EEC 1H Feb	173 (-6)	175 (-7)
3.5 Fuel Oil	109 (n/c)	111 (n/c)
Naphtha	175 (-2)	177 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	175.25-75.50	Apr	160.75-61.00
Feb	169.75-70.00	May	158.00-58.25
Mar	165.50-65.75		Vol: 39281

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	18.38-18.39	May	unq
Mar	17.88-17.90	Jun	16.94-16.96
Apr	17.50 BID		Vol: 37325

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	121.25	Jan	114.95
Mar	123.15	Mar	115.00
May	125.05	May	117.40
Jul	127.15	Sep	103.25
Sep	113.00	Nov	110.50
	Volume: 445		Volume: 150

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	220.0	216.5
May	unq	243.5
		Volume: 94

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 106.75-107.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1575	1545	1555
Feb 96	1550	1510	1520
Mar 96	1535	1510	1525
Apr 96	1530	1505	1515
Vol: 371 lots			Open Interest: 3880

Index 1570 -7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2608.0-2610.0	2508.0-2509.0	1719650
Lead ($/tonne)	692.50-693.00	684.00-684.50	257350
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1011.0-1011.5	1034.0-1034.5	796750
Tin ($/tonne)	6285.0-6290.0	6315.0-6320.0	18340
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1606.0-1608.0	1614.5-1615.0	1862200
Nickel ($/tonne)	7535.0-7540.0	7650.0-7660.0	57930

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom.	500	48	60	65½	0	4½	10
(*547½)	550	5	25½	37½	8	19½	28½
Argyll	330	8	22½	27½	2	11½	18½
(*335)	360	0	9	14	25	28½	36
ASDA	100	9½	12½	15½	0	2½	5
(*109½)	110	2	7	10	2½	7	9
Boots	550	46	59½	67	0	5½	13
(*595½)	600	4½	25½	34½	9	22	33
Br Airways	460	31½	45½	55½	0	6	13
(*491)	500	2½	20½	32	10½	21½	30½
BP	500	33	41½	51	0	6	11½
(*532½)	550	1	13	23½	18	29½	34
Br Steel	160	7	14½	17½	1	5½	10
(*167)	180	0	5	8	13	16½	22
C & W	420	31½	46	53	0	7½	15½
(*451)	460	3	22½	30½	11½	23½	32½
CU	600	14	33	41½	4	27	32½
(*610)	650	0½	12	21	40	61	64½
ICI	800	11	32	46½	6½	34	41
(*806)	850	0	13	25½	44	67	72
Kingfishr	500	26	41½	47½	1	13½	22
(*524½)	550	1	15½	23	26½	41	49½
Land Sec	600	40½	52½	60½	0	4	13
(*639½)	650	2	18½	28½	12½	20½	36
M & S	420	9	23½	29½	2	10	17
(*426½)	460	0	6½	12	33½	35	41
Nat West	600	37½	47½	59	0½	16	24½
(*636½)	650	3½	20	34	15½	42½	50
Sainsbury	360	27½	37	42	0	4	9½
(*386)	390	3½	17½	23	6	14	22
Shell	850	17	36	45½	2	21	26½
(*864½)	900	0	12	21½	35½	51½	56
Smkl Bch	650	45½	59½	73	0	8½	16
(*694½)	700	5½	29	43½	10½	28	36
Storehse	300	19½	29	36½	0	5	9½
(*319)	330	1½	11½	19½	11½	18	23
Trafalgar	25	4	7½	9	0	3	4
(*29)	30	1	5	7	2	5½	7
Unilever	1300	43½	68½	80	1	21	31
(*1341½)	1350	7	37½	51	15	45	54
Zeneca	1200	37	70½	97	2½	35	49
(*1233½)	1250	8	43½	70	23½	60½	73½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Grnd Met.	420	30½	42½	51	5	9½	14½
(*443½)	460	8	20	29½	22½	27½	33
Ladbroke	140	12½	18	22	5	11½	14
(*146½)	160	4½	9½	14	16½	23	25½
Utd Bisc	260	17½	23	27	4½	11½	15
[illegible]	280	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	14	30	37	1	9½	16½
(*471½)	500	0	11	17	28½	31	36½
Thames W	500	41	54½	61½	0	5	15½
(*538½)	550	3½	22½	31	12½	23	39½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAT Ind	550	20½	28½	38	14	28	38
(*553)	600	4	11½	20	48	63	70½
BTR	330	9	13½	20	6½	15½	18½
(*330)	360	1	4	9	30	37½	39½
Br Aero	800	49	67½	89½	11	26	36
(*831½)	850	21	42½	63	33½	50½	59½
Br Telcm	330	31	38½	45	0½	3½	8½
(*357½)	360	9	18½	25½	8½	13½	20½
Cadbury	500	53	60	69	3	12½	17½
(*547)	550	17½	29	41	17½	33	38½
Guinness	460	31½	39	49½	2½	11½	16
(*485½)	500	8	17	25	19	31½	36
GEC	360	13½	23	28½	9½	13½	20½
(*362)	390	3	10	15	29½	31½	38
Hanson	191	13½	—	—	1½	—	—
(*202)	211	2½	—	—	12½	—	—
LASMO	160	18½	22½	27½	1	4	6
(*176½)	180	5½	10½	16	7½	11½	14½
Lucas	160	17½	21½	25	1	3	5½
(*175½)	180	4½	9½	13½	8	11½	14
Pilkngtn	191	8	15	18	6½	9	13
(*191½)	210	2	7	10	19½	21	24
Prudential	420	23½	29½	41	9½	20	26½
(*431½)	460	6½	12½	24	31½	44	49½
Redland	360	18	27½	32	6½	17½	21
(*368½)	390	5	13½	18½	24	36	38½
R-Royce	180	15½	20½	23½	2	6	8½
(*192½)	200	4	9	13½	10½	16½	18½
Tesco	280	23	28	32	2	7	10
(*298½)	300	8½	15	21	8½	15½	18½
Vodafone	200	17	23½	28	3	7	10½
(*211½)	220	6	13	18	12½	16½	19½
Williams	330	11½	18½	21½	5½	14	16
(*333½)	360	1½	6½	9½	26½	34½	36

FT-SE INDEX (*3664½)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Jan	120	84	41½	15	4	1
Feb	150	109	73	45½	26	13½
Mar	167½	129	97½	70	46½	30½
Apr	177	144	113	88	63½	46½
Jun	—	178½	—	128½	—	75
Puts						
Jan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Feb	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Apr	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jun	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat.	600	49½	58½	67½	14	23	31
(*635½)	650	21	32	42½	40	49	56
Amstrad	180	15½	23	28½	9	13	13
(*185½)	200	7	15	19½	20½	24	26
Barclays	750	31½	45½	55	27½	37	45½
(*756½)	800	11	24½	34	61½	68½	75
Blue Circ	330	16	22½	28½	12	22½	25
(*331½)	360	6	11½	16½	31	42	43½
Br Gas	240	26	29½	32	3½	9	10½
(*259½)	260	13	17½	21	9½	18½	19½
Dixons	390	30½	41½	48½	11	15½	21
(*407½)	420	15½	25½	32½	24	29½	35½
Forte	330	34	37	39	4	4	4½
(*359½)	360	10½	16	19½	11½	12	16
Tarmac	100	10	12½	15	3½	7	8½
(*104½)	110	5	8	10	9	12½	14
Hillsdwn	160	16½	18½	20	½	6	8½
(*173)	180	5	7½	9½	10½	17	19½
Lonrho	180	13	19	22	6	9	11
(*187)	200	5½	10½	13	18	20	22
Sears	90	10	11½	12½	1	2½	3½
(*98)	100	3½	5½	7	5	7½	8
Thrn Eml	1500	129	168½	188	14	28	43½
(*1594)	1600	65½	107½	127½	49	64	83
Tomkins	280	14½	23	27	9	14	18
(*286½)	300	6	13½	17½	20½	25	28½
Lloyds TSB	292	26	30½	—	6	11	—
(*312½)	322	8	15	—	21½	26	—

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Glaxo Well	850	29½	52½	66½	2½	24	32½
(*875)	900	2½	24½	41½	27½	51	59
HSBC	950	48½	75	89½	1	30½	43
(*996½)	1000	11½	46	63½	14½	55	66½
Reuter	550	42	56½	68	0	11	17½
(*591½)	600	4½	26	39	12½	32	39

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Royal Ins	360	21½	32½	40½	1	19½	21
(*380½)	390	2½	17	26	12	32	37½

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun		Puts Mar	Puts Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0½	0	—
(*265)	280	0½	0½	—	15	19	—

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May		Puts Feb	Puts May	
Eastern Gp	950	25½	35½	—	0½	0½	—
(*975)	1000	0½	0½	—	34½	34½	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15½	20½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	36	41½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10½	16½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	26½	32

January 10, 1996 Tot: 43225 Call: 18724 Put: 24501 FT-SE Call: 5701 Put: 12128
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 63003	Mar 96	3715.0	3722.0	3683.0	3692.0	13909
	Jun 96	3700.0	3700.0	3700.0	3694.0	1
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3312	Mar 96	4073.0	4073.0	4045.0	4050.0	56
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 340308	Mar 96	93.68	93.71	93.67	93.68	11405
	Jun 96	93.81	93.85	93.80	93.82	15848
	Sep 96	93.77	93.82	93.76	93.77	11976
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest 0	Mar 96				94.64	0
	n/a					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 970437	Mar 96	96.47	96.49	96.47	96.49	29542
	Jun 96	96.63	96.69	96.63	96.67	37091
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 130650	Mar 96	110-14	110-25	110-05	110-09	62692
	Jun 96	109-28	109-28	109-25	109-22	77
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.70	119.79	119.61	119.72	3242
	Jun 96	118.26	118.29	118.23	118.29	210
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 214665	Mar 96	99.83	100.15	99.83	99.96	156897
	Jun 96	99.30	99.45	99.25	99.28	733
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 18689	Mar 96	95.12	95.14	95.10	95.12	1290
	Jun 96	95.28	95.29	95.26	95.28	932
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 46179	Mar 96	98.31	98.37	98.30	98.36	9288
	Jun 96	98.39	98.45	98.39	98.43	5462
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 58587	Mar 96	110.00	110.19	109.57	109.72	43335
	Jun 96	109.60	109.60	109.10	109.32	116

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6 7/16
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 11/32; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6 5/16; 3 mth: 6 3/16.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6½-6 7/16	6 11/32-6 9/32	6 7/32-6¼	6 7/32-6 5/32	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 17/32-6 15/32	6 15/32-6 13/32	6 7/16-6 3/8	6 13/32-6 11/32	6 13/32-6 11/32
Interbank:	6 17/32-6 15/32	6 15/32-6 13/32	6½-6 7/16	6 13/32-6 11/32	6 13/32-6 11/32

Overnight: open 6½, close 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6 7/16	n/a	6 7/16	6 3/8	6 5/16
Sterling CDs:	6½-6 7/16	6 15/32-6 13/32	6 7/16-6 3/8	6 3/8-6 5/16	6½-6 5/16
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.57	5.36	5.27
Building Society CDs:	6 17/32-6 15/32	6 15/32-6 13/32	6½-6 7/16	6 13/32-6 11/32	6 13/32-6 11/32

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 9/16-5 7/16	5⅝-5½	5½-5⅜	5½-5⅜	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	3 11/16-3 9/16	3 9/16-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4¼-3¼
French Franc:	4⅜-4¼	4 13/16-4 11/16	4⅝-4½	4 13/16-4 11/16	5-4
Swiss Franc:	1½-1⅜	1½-1 13/16	1 13/16-1 11/16	1 13/16-1 11/16	2-1
Yen:	9/16-7/16	½-⅜	9/16-7/16	½-⅜	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $396.30-396.60 Close: $398.50-399.00 High: $401.90-402.00 Low: $395.40-395.90 AM: $396.75 PM: $400.00

Krugerrand: $398.50-400.50 (£257.50-259.50)

Platinum: $414.35 (£268.00) **Silver:** $5.59 (£3.615) **Palladium:** $129.50 (£83.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4869-2.4960	2.4924-2.4956	½-¼pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	45.63-45.85	45.75-45.85	13-10pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.5840-8.6220	8.5930-8.6150	1¾-1¼pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9662-0.9701	0.9664-0.9690	10-7pr	26-21pr
Frankfurt	2.2214-2.2287	2.2238-2.2269	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	230.19-231.24	230.35-230.98	26-54ds	94-138ds
Madrid	186.70-187.38	186.92-187.20	39-49ds	115-132ds
Milan	2427.8-2435.2	2431.2-2435.2	7-8ds	22-24ds
Montreal	2.1041-2.1109	2.1076-2.1106	0.18-0.10pr	0.35-0.23pr
New York	1.5448-1.5473	1.5452-1.5462	0.13-0.11pr	0.36-0.33pr
Oslo	9.7780-9.8010	9.7860-9.8010	1¼-¾pr	3½-2½pr
Paris	7.6100-7.6330	7.6160-7.6290	1¼-1pr	3-2½pr
Stockholm	10.157-10.187	10.164-10.187	¼-¾ds	¼-¾ds
Tokyo	161.74-162.70	162.43-162.70	¾-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.610-15.673	15.647-15.673	¾-½pr	1-¾pr
Zurich	1.7961-1.8004	1.7976-1.8004	½-¾pr	2¼-2pr

Source: Extel
Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3437-1.3446
Austria	10.10-10.11
Belgium (Com)	29.54-29.58
Canada	1.3632-1.3637
Denmark	5.5570-5.5600
France	4.9245-4.9277
Germany	1.4373-1.4378
Hong Kong	7.7325-7.7335
Ireland	1.5965-1.5985
Italy	1570.20-1571.70
Japan	104.67-104.77
Malaysia	2.5545-2.5555
Netherlands	1.6096-1.6106
Norway	6.3248-6.3323
Portugal	149.11-149.19
Singapore	1.4210-1.4220
Spain	120.81-120.89
Sweden	6.5704-6.5779
Switzerland	1.1616-1.1626

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5464-1.5490
Australia dollar	2.0779-2.0800
Bahrain dinar	0.5775-0.5895
Brazil real*	1.5031-1.5072
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6970-0.7070
Finland markka	6.6775-6.7935
Greece drachma	360.00-367.00
Hong Kong dollar	11.9575-11.9630
India rupee	54.87-55.83
Indonesia rupiah	3513.00-3581.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4580-0.4680
Malaysia ringgit	3.9518-3.9539
New Zealand dollar	2.3469-2.3502
Pakistan rupee	52.83 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5725-5.6965
Singapore dollar	2.1993-2.2008
S Africa rand (com)	5.5630-5.6650
U A E dirham	5.6225-5.7465

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	1,400	Land Secs	1,300
ASDA Gp	2,700	Legal & Gn	706
Abbey Ntl	1,800	Lloyds TSB	15,000
Allied Dom	1,500	Marks Spr	3,000
Argos	1,400	NatWst Bk	4,200
Argyll Gp	3,300	Nat Grid	4,300
AB Foods	524	Nat Power	2,500
BAA	1,600	P & O	2,400
BAT Inds	7,700	Pearson	1,100
BOC	829	Pilkington	3,000
BP	5,600	PowerGen	896
BSkyB	1,700	Prudential	2,100
BTR	6,900	REXAM	4,500
BT	7,800	RMC	1,600
Bk of Scot	2,200	RTZ	3,200
Barclays	2,700	Rank Org	1,300
Bass	2,300	Reckitt Col	1,500
Blue Circle	1,100	Redland	1,400
Boots	2,100	Reed Intl	2,600
BAe	4,500	Rentokil	1,400
BA	3,300	Reuters	2,900
Brit Gas	14,000	Rolls Royce	7,300
Brit Steel	2,600	Royal Ins	1,500
Burmah Cstl	368	Ryl Bk Scot	1,900
Burton	2,400	Sainsbury	4,000
Cable Wire	2,900	Schroders	6
Cadbury	2,900	Scot & New	3,300
Carlton Cms	872	Scot Power	1,600
Cm Union	1,100	Svrn Trent	1,800
Cookson	3,600	Shell Trans	3,800
Courtaulds	1,000	Siebe	599
Dixons	9,400	SmKl Bch	4,200
Enterpr Oil	338	Smith Nph	4,800
For & Col IT	2,000	Smiths Inds	3,000
Forte	48,000	Sthern Elec	562
GKN	1,100	Std Chartd	3,100
GRE	2,100	Sun Allnce	1,100
GUS	1,300	TI Gp	1,800
Gen Acc	915	Tate & Lyle	644
Gen Elec	10,000	Tesco	5,000
Glaxo Well	7,700	Thames W	2,400
Granada	7,300	Thrn EMI	824
Grand Met	2,400	Tomkins	3,000
Guinness	1,600	Unilever	2,500
HSBC	12,000	United Utils	440
Hanson	8,200	Vodafone	14,000
ICI	2,000	Whitbread	972
Kingfisher	2,900	Wlms Hld	1,100
LASMO	2,600	Wolseley	2,400
Ladbroke	7,500	Zeneca	1,200

WALL STREET

	Jan 10 midday	Jan 9 close
AMP Inc	38½	38½
AMR Corp	70½	71½
AT & T	65½	66
Abbott Labs	41	42
Advanced Micro	17	16½
Aetna Life	69½	69½
Ahmanson (HF)	24½	24½
Air Prod & Chem	54½	54½
AirTouch Comm	26½	27
Alberto-Culver B	34½	34½
Albertson's	32½	32½
Alcan Alumnm	29½	29½
Alco Standard	43½	44½
Allied Signal	48½	49½
Alum Co of Am	50½	51½
Amax Gold Inc	9	8½
Amerada Hess	54½	55½
Amer Brands	44½	44½
Amer El Power	42	42
Amer Express	40	40½
Amer Genl Corp	33½	33½
Amer Home Pr	96	96½
Amer Intl	92½	93½
Amer Stores	26½	26½
Amer Standard	27	27½
Ameritech	58	58½
Amoco	71½	72
Anheuser-Busch	67	67½
Apple Computer	33 11/16	32½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	6	6½
Armstrng Wrld	62½	63½
Asarco	28½	28½
Ashland Oil	35½	35½
Atl Richfield	116	116½
Auto Data Pro	39½	38½
Avery Dennison	48½	50½
Avon Products	73½	75½
Baker Hughes	23½	23½
Baltim Gas & El	28½	29½
Banc One	36	35½
BankAmerica	60½	61½
Bank of NY	44½	45½
Bankers Tr NY	62½	63½
Barnett Banks	56½	58½
Bausch & Lomb	37½	38½
Baxter Intl	41½	42½
Becton Dickinsn	76½	76½
Bell Atlantic	68½	68½
Bell Industries	20½	20½
BellSouth	42½	42½
Black & Decker	33½	34½
Block (H&R)	39	39½
Boeing	78½	77½
Boise Cascade	33½	34½
Bristol Myrs Sq	82½	83½
Browning Ferris	30½	29½
Brunswick	22½	22½
Burlington Nthn	75½	75½
CNA Financial	112	113½
CPC Intl	70½	70½
CSX	45	45½
CCH A	55½	55½
Campbell Soup	59½	59½
Can Pacific	18½	18½
Cpl Cities ABC	124½	125½
Carolina Pwr	34½	34½
Caterpillar	60	59½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	40½	40
Chase Manhat	58½	58½
Chemical Bk	54	54½
Chevron Corp	54½	55½
Chrysler	53½	53½
Chubb Corp	103½	103½
Cigna Corp	105½	106½
Citicorp	63½	63½
Clorox	72½	71½
Coastal Corp	36½	37½
Coca Cola	73½	74½
Colgate-Palmolive	70	71½
Columbia Gas	44	44½
ColumbiaHCA	53	52
Compaq Comp	46½	46
Comp Ass Intl	56½	54½
Conagra	42½	43½
Conrail	71½	71½
Cons Edison	33	33½
Cons Nat Gas	44½	44½
Cooper Inds	36½	36½
Corestates	36½	36½
Corning Inc	30½	30½
Crown Cork	41½	41½
Dana Corp	29	29½
Dayton Hudson	75½	76½
Deere	34½	35
Delta Air Lines	71	72
Deluxe Corp	27½	28½
Detroit Edison	34½	34½
Digital Equip	56½	54½
Dillard Dept St	29½	29½
Disney (Walt)	61½	61½
Dominion Res	42½	42½
Donnelley (RR)	36½	37½
Dover Corp	38½	37½
Dow Chemical	71½	72½
Dow Jones	38½	38½
Dresser	24½	24½
Duke Power	47½	48
Dun & Brdstreet	66½	63½
Du Pont	72½	73½
Eastman Kodak	67½	68
Eaton Corp	55	55½
Emerson Elec	80	80½
Engelhard Corp	22½	23½
Enron Corp	37½	38½
Entergy	30½	29½
Ethyl Corp	12½	12½
Exxon	82½	82½
FMC Corp	69½	70½
FPL Group	45½	45½
Federal Express	74½	74½
Fed Nat Mtge	118½	120½
First Interstate	131½	133
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	40½	41
Fluor Corp	63½	64½
Ford Motor	27½	28½
GTE Corp	44	44½
Gannett	60½	60½
Gap Inc Del	45½	45½
Gen Dynamics	60	60½
Gen Electric	71½	72½
Gen Mills	54	54½
Gen Motors	49½	49½
Gen Reinsurance	150½	152½
Gen Signal	33	33½
Genuine Parts	40½	40½
Georgia Pac	69	70½
Gillette	53½	53½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27	27½
Goodrich (BF)	69½	68½
Goodyear Tire	43½	43½
Grace (W&R)	56½	56½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	20½	21½
Great Wstn Fin	24	24½
Halliburton	47½	47½
Harcourt General	39½	40½
Heinz (HJ)	33½	33½
Hercules	54½	55½
Hershey Foods	65½	65½
Hewlett Packard	79	77½
Hilton Hotels	64½	63½
Home Depot	43½	43
Homestake Mng	18½	17½
Honeywell	46½	47
Household Intl	53½	56
Houston Inds	25½	25½
Humana	26½	25½
ITT Corp	49½	49½
Illinois Tool	55½	56½
Illinova	30½	30½
INCO	32½	32½
Ingersoll Rand	37½	37½
Inland Steel	26½	26½
Intel Corp	55	55
IBM	88½	86½
Intl Flav & Fr	47½	47½
Intl Paper	38½	38½
James River Va	22½	23
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	86½	88½
Kellogg	75½	75½
Kerr-McGee	63½	64½
Kimberly-Clark	79½	80½
Kmart	7½	7½
Knight-Ridder	61½	62½
Lilly (Eli)	51½	52½
Limited Inc	16½	16½
Lincoln Nat	51½	51½
Litton	47½	48½
Liz Claiborne	28	28
Lockheed Martin	78½	78½
Louisiana Pac	24½	25
MCI Comm	25½	25½
Marriott Intl	38½	38½
Marsh & McLnn	85½	87½
Masco Corp	28½	28½
May Dept St	44½	45½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	44½	44½
McDonnell D	95½	95½
McGraw Hill	86½	86
Mead Corp	54½	54½
Medtronic	47½	49½
Mellon Bk	49½	49½
Melville Corp	31	31½
Merck Inc	62½	63½
Merrill Lynch	50½	50½
Microsoft	82½	80½
Minnesota Mine	66½	65½
Mobil Corp	113½	114½
Monsanto	127½	125
Morgan (JP)	75½	76
Motorola Inc	50	53½
Natl Semi	16½	17
Natl Service Ind	33½	33½
Navistar Int	11½	11½
NY Times A	28½	29½
Newmont Mng	51½	50½
Niag Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	65½	68½
NL Industries	13½	13½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	41½	41½
Norfolk Sthn	79	79½
Nthn State Pwr	49½	49½
Norwest Corp	31½	32½
Nynex Corp	52½	52½
Occidental Pet	21½	21½
Ohio Edison	24½	24½
Oracle	42	40½
Oryx Energy Co	13½	13½
Owens Corning	42½	44
PPG Industries	46½	46½
PNC Bank	29½	29½
PP&L Res	25½	25½
Paccar Inc	45½	45½
Pacificorp	21½	21½
Pac Enterprises	28½	28½
Pac Gas & Elec	27½	27½
Pac Telesis	33½	34½
Pall Corp	24½	24½
Panhandle East	27½	27½
Parker Hannifin	36½	36½
Penn Energy	30½	30½
Penney (JC)	47	46½
Pennzoil	42½	43
Pepsico	55½	55½
Pfizer	64½	64½
Pharm & Upjhn	37	37
Phelps Dodge	57½	57½
Philip Morris	88½	89½
Phillips Pet	34	34½
Pitney Bowes	44	45½
Polaroid	47½	48½
PriceCostco	16½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	86½	87½
Providian	42½	42½
Pub Serv E & G	31½	31½
Quaker Oats	34½	34½
Ralston Purina	60½	60½
Raychem Corp	53½	53½
Raytheon	48½	47
Reebok Intl	27½	28
Reynolds Metals	53½	53½
Rockwell Intl	52½	53½
Rohm & Haas	66½	66½
Royal Dutch	141½	143
Rubbermaid	26½	25½
SBC Comms	57½	57½
Safeco Corp	34½	35
St Paul's Cos	57½	57½
Salomon Inc	35½	35½
Sara Lee Corp	31½	31½
Scecorp	17½	17½
Schering Plough	54½	54½
Schlumberger	67½	67½
Seagram	34½	35½
Sears Roebuck	42½	42½
Shell Trans	81½	82½
Sherwin Wllms	39½	39½
Skyline Corp	20½	20½
Snap-On-Tools	43½	44½
Southern Co	24½	24½
Sprint Corp	39½	39½
Stanley Works	50½	50½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	39½	37½
Suntrust	64½	66
Supervalu	31½	31½
Sysco Corp	30½	30½
TRW Inc	79½	80½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	9½	10
Tandy Corp	37½	36½
Teledyne	26½	26½
Temple Inland	43½	43½
Tenneco	48½	49½
Texaco	79½	80
Texas Inst	46	45
Texas Utilities	41½	41½
Textron	72½	73½
Time Warner	38	38
Times-Mirror A	33½	33½
Timken	39	39½
Torchmark	43½	44½
Toys R Us	23½	23½
Transamerica	71½	72½
Travelers	58½	59
Tribune	59½	59½
Tyco Labs	33½	34½
UST Inc	32½	33½
UAL	165½	167½
US Inds	17½	17½
USX Marathon	19½	20½
Unicom	33½	33½
Unilever NV	144½	143½
Union Camp	47½	47½
Union Carbide	39	38½
Union Pacific	68½	68½
Unisys Corp	6½	6
USAIR Group	12½	13½
USF&G Corp	16	16½
US Life	30½	30½
United Tech	93	93½
Unocal Corp	29½	29½
VF Corp	51½	51½
WMX Tech	30½	30½
Wal-Mart Stores	22½	23
Warner-Lambert	93½	94
Wells Fargo	206½	209½
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	47½	45
Whirlpool	52½	53½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	36½	36½
Woolworth	11½	11½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	53½	53½
Xerox	132	131½
Yellow Corp	12½	12½

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

◆

Sweet and sour — with ice

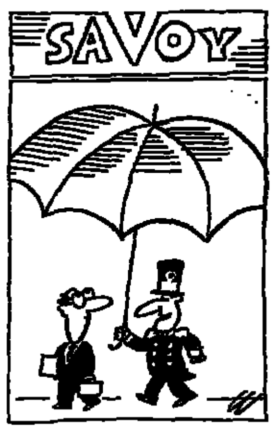
ANALYSTS fighting their way to work today through New York's snow storms will be doing so with dread in their hearts. Bloomberg's second annual survey of the 25 worst analysts on Wall Street is now out, and senior partners will be scouring the lists for names.

Last year the survey, published in *Financial World*, America's oldest business magazine, only listed the "worst 25" analysts, hence it was dubbed the Lemon List. This year, the 25 best analysts and 20 brokerage houses are also ranked, hence it is dubbed the Sweet and Sour list.

It is bitter sweet for telecoms equipment analyst Therese Murphy — last year's No 1 Lemon. *FW* reports that she is not on any list this year "because she was the 26th worst performer". *FW* further notes that another on the 1995 Lemon List "is no longer in equity research".

Supply-side hitch

THERE is a thoughtful touch to the invitation to today's wedding of Jenny Tora, senior fund manager at IAI International, the US fund management side of Hill Samuel, and Nick Antill, BZW's head of oil sales/research. Bidding their friends to a champagne reception at Trinity House, where the musically versed Jenny has arranged a tenor to sing, they write. "we have been together for some years. At last count we had four ironing boards, four electric kettles and several toasters and feel a car boot sale might be the only solution to our over-supply situation. So please, don't buy us a wedding present. Instead, treat yourself or loved one or make a donation to a favourite charity." Here's hoping none of the toasters packs up.



"We are also doubling the size of our dividend"

Flood of offers

HERE'S enterprise for you. After Noah, the Islington antiques and furniture emporium, is having a sale. Everything, except beds and a few selected items, has been marked down 10 per cent. On items over £10, shoppers can elect to toss a coin — heads secures you 15 per cent off. Tails you lose, and get only 5 per cent off.

Over-qualified

MICHELE BRADLEY, a partner specialising in commercial property at law firm Forsyte Saunders Kerman, was asked by *The Lawyer* magazine to recall her most embarrassing mom-ent. "Shortly after I was made partner, I attended a major lease-negotiating meeting. The other sides' solicitors ushered me into the wrong room and interviewed me for a job as a trainee solicitor. I didn't get it, she reveals.

I HAVE sad news for the 566 people in Britain who are shareholders in Malaysia Mining Corporation. They had better start brushing up on their Malay. After 20 years of maintaining a branch register in the UK and a listing on the London Stock Exchange, the register is closing and the listing is being terminated on January 31.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH

Conservatives ignore Europe at their peril

The European drive to hit Maastricht deficit targets threatens to throw UK exports off course

The storm clouds are gathering over Europe, but Britain seems oblivious. Our great leaders have been practically everywhere else, in mind and body. Michael Portillo has been carrying the Euro-sceptic standard and a grudge against Emma Nicholson from the United Arab Emirates to the Philippines and Japan. Tony Blair just managed to get out of Japan in time to miss Mr Portillo and gave Singapore his vision of a stakeholder society. Michael Howard was in Delhi, defending arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Kenneth Clarke was touring Latin America, touting for privatisation business for Britain's merchant bankers. Michael Heseltine was the nearest any of them got to the heart of Europe, slamming Mr Blair from the Italian holiday resort of Amalfi.

John Major, meanwhile, had his head in his fish pond in Huntingdon, trying to avoid the flak flying so wantonly around the world. In splendid isolation, He dutifully put out his now monthly message, warning his party to stop in-fighting, and launched his re-election campaign.

The message, which is going to be rammed home repeatedly this year, is that the economy is shaping up nicely, that the pain is receding and that the British consumer is going to come back with a vengeance and win the election for the Conservatives.

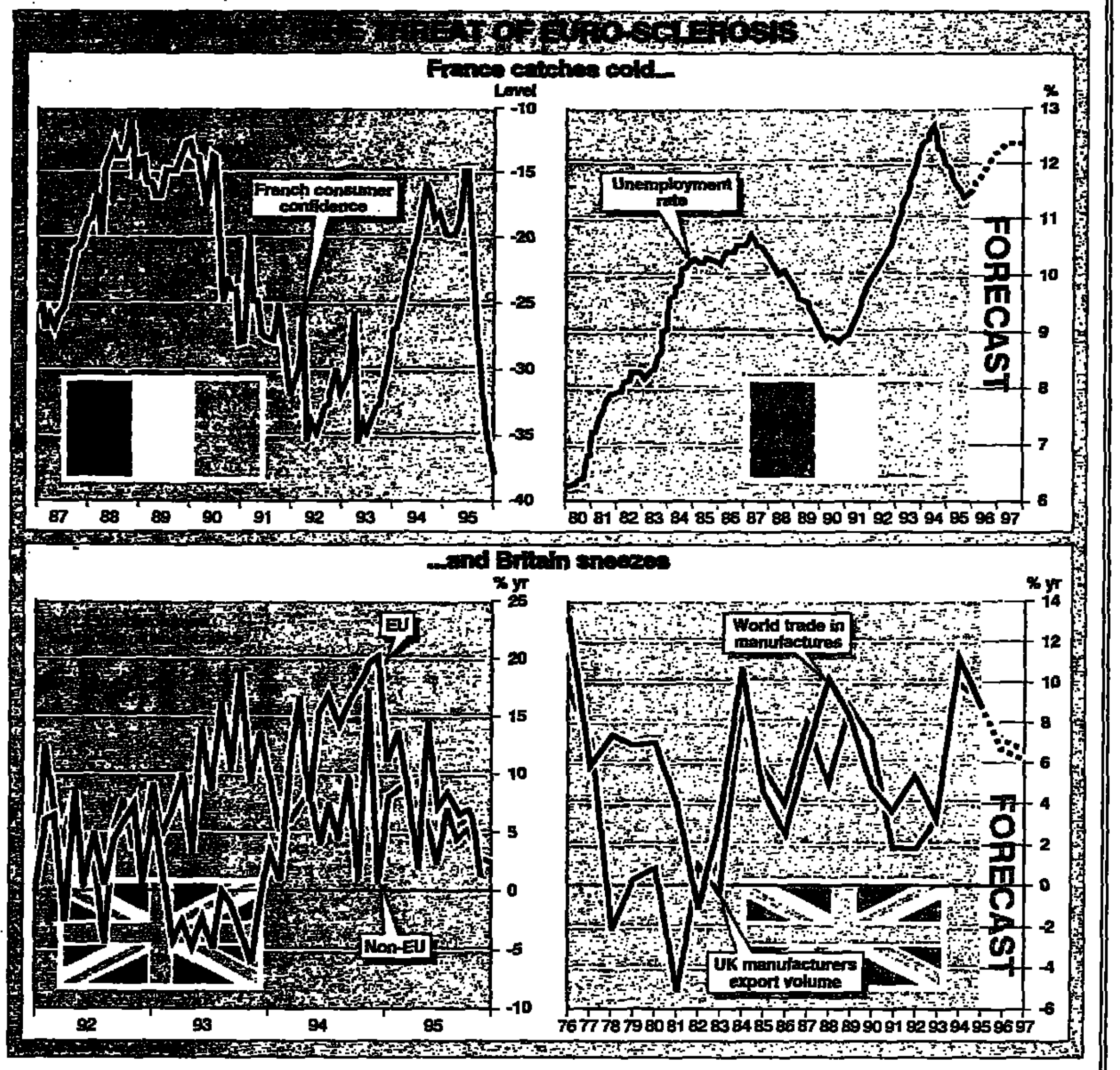
The economic debate in Britain is now dominated by whether the Government is right to predict that consumer spending will increase by 3.5 per cent this year and help the Treasury to meet its target for economic growth of 3 per cent. The fact that the focus is almost entirely on whether the consumer beast will finally stir reflects on how near the election now might be. The Government is relying on the notion that consumer confidence will translate into votes.

But there is scarcely any debate about what will happen this year in the other sources of economic growth. Much has been written about the involuntary build-up of stocks in Britain last year and how quickly these will be run down so that healthy growth can resume. The stocks cycle should mean a very weak end of 1995 and beginning of 1996. Investment is still uncertain, with spending on plant and machinery looking reasonably healthy, but investment in construction looking very weak.

But possibly the most contentious area is Britain's trade performance. The Government is predicting growth in export volumes this year of 8.25 per cent, a better performance than the 6.5 per cent the Treasury estimates was achieved in 1995. Imports are expected to rise by 7.75 per cent, so leading to an overall improvement in Britain's visible trade deficit.

The major problem, as yesterday's trade figures showed, is that exports to Britain's key European export markets are faltering. Exports to Europe fell by 5.2 per cent in October largely because demand from Germany and the Benelux countries was weaker. Exports to Germany fell 6.5 per cent, while exports to the Benelux countries were down 10.4 per cent.

In the current political climate within the Conservative Party, it is understandable that potential problems emanating from Europe are best brushed under the carpet as the wooing of the electorate begins in earnest. But, sooner or later, Europe will re-enter with a roar from stage left. The inter-governmental conference on plans for European monetary union will probably start in the second half of the year and is a timebomb of which John Major is well aware. What is less recognised is the damaging impact on British exporters of the Maastricht-inspired stranglehold on continental European growth.



This is a Europe-wide phenomenon, but let us take France and Germany which, in recent years, have accounted for about on quarter of British export markets. The signs are ominous. Yesterday, there was news that French consumer confidence had fallen to its lowest level since January 1987. On Tuesday, there was news of a 68,000 surge in German unemployment to 3.79 million and a jump of more than 19 per cent in company insolvencies in October against a year ago.

UK exports to Europe dropped 5.2% in October because of weaker demand

The DIW institute — admittedly always on the pessimistic side — predicted German growth of only 1 per cent this year and Helmut Schmidt, a former Chancellor, was moved to characterise Germany as a shackled Gulliver. "If we don't want conditions like in Rome, endless strikes like in Paris, class war like England, or a crippling of public services like the United States, then we must pull ourselves together in 1996," he opined with a tact that must infuriate the Lilliputians with which Germany means to share its destiny.

As Europe struggles to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria by the end of 1997, the risk is that growth will be dampened down to such an extent that unemployment will rise to even more politically unacceptable levels and that deficits, far from falling, may actually rise in some cases.

Last summer, Mike Dicks, European economist at JP Morgan in London, calculated the size of overall fiscal tightening needed in 14 European countries in order to hit Maastricht's deficit criterium and what the cost would be in growth and unemployment. He estimated that the average fiscal tightening — with no action presumed to be needed in Germany, Denmark, the Irish Republic and The Netherlands — would be equivalent to 1.9 per cent of gross domestic product. Growth, on average, would be cut by 2.6 per cent and unemployment would rise by 0.5 per cent. Germany, for all this week's chest beating, is probably not in bad shape, with most economists predicting a recovery in growth in the second half of this year after a poor first half. The economics team at Lehman Brothers notes that Germany is planning tax cuts later this year for the low paid, a group that has a high marginal propensity to spend, and that domestic demand should also be boosted by higher wages.

France is the major worry. Jean Arthuis, France's Finance Minister, yesterday revised down his forecast for growth last year to 2.6 per cent from 2.9 per cent, but has thus far left his forecast for growth this year unchanged at 2.8 per cent. This is widely expected to be revised downwards, perhaps to 2.5 per cent, but most observers of France believe that this is hopelessly over-optimistic.

Mr Dicks has calculated that France would have to tighten fiscal policy overall by 1.1 per cent. This would cut growth by 1.2 per cent cumulatively and raise unemployment by 0.2 per cent. He now predicts that France may grow by as little as 1.25 per cent this year and that this could leave France's deficit as a percentage of GDP at 4.75 per cent this year and at 4 per cent in 1997, still above the 3 per cent required under Maastricht. He believes that it might take until 1999 for France to meet the deficit criteria.

There are many other sceptical voices. Julian Jessop, European economist with HSBC Markets, believes growth will amount to no more than 1.6 per cent and that the deficit will overshoot, even if the authorities stick to their guns on current deficit plans and stand firm in spite of rising unemployment. He and others, such as James Capel, see the rate of unemployment rising to 12 per cent this year, from 11.5 per cent in 1995.

French ministers may well decry this pessimism from the Euro-sceptic gnomes of London and they will almost certainly continue to pursue their painful Maastricht programme, destroying growth on the way. Having faced down the strikers, the mood is morose but determined and that means a hard, low growth grind for the foreseeable future.

There seems little hope of a big boost to growth from the US, Japan, or the rest of Europe. Some succour may appear in the form of lower interest rates, but with predictions of a gentle rise in German inflation later this year, the scope does not appear to be great as long as France, and others, remain committed to exchange-rate stability against the mark.

And what of our own sceptered isle? If consumer spending is really set to grow by 3.5 per cent, the worry must be that imports will start surging. Exports to key European markets are likely to struggle. No wonder that Messrs Howard, Clarke and Portillo are touting for business across the non-European world stage.

Putting the House's pensions in order

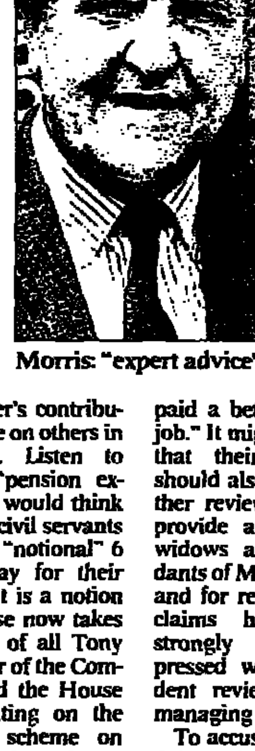
An improvement in the scheme for MPs has been attacked as unwarranted.

Alfred Morris replies to the critics

Recent reports about the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) have left some MPs wondering if the fund can really be the one to which they subscribe. The suggestion that a uniform accrual rate of one fiftieth for each year of parliamentary service is "selfish" ignores the fact that any change in the fund's provisions must first be recommended by an independent review body. It is that body, not MPs, that has made the fund's accrual rate a priority for change.

Even so, the fund's managing trustees sought expert and impartial legal advice before accepting the review body's recommendation. That advice emphasised the expertise of the review body, its independence and that its recommendations must be treated by the trustees as reflecting "good current practice in pension schemes . . . balancing the burden of contributions against the benefit of higher pensions."

To compare the PCPF with the Civil Service scheme is wrongheaded. Not only is the parliamentary scheme a contributory one, it is one in which the member's contribution, at 9 per cent, was for long among the highest of any occupational pension scheme in Britain. This was the price demanded of MPs in 1983, by the then Prime Minister, to offset part of the cost of a review body's award on parliamentary pay.



Morris: "expert advice"

There was no talk then of the repercussive effects that level of member's contribution would have on others in public service. Listen to some of the "pension experts" and you would think that the pay of civil servants is abated by a "notional" 6 per cent to pay for their pensions. But it is a notion that nobody else now takes seriously, least of all Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, who told the House when commenting on the parliamentary scheme on July 17: " ... there is no getting away from the fact — nor do I seek to disguise it — that this is a Contributory Scheme and that the Civil Service Scheme is not." (Hansard, col 1416).

Since parliamentary pay was for many years linked to that of a Civil Service grade, MPs must effectively have been paying a punitive 15 per cent of gross salary for their pensions when their scheme's contribution rate was 9 per cent.

MPs accepted the imposition of a pension contribution rate which, at the time, was significantly above that needed by their pension fund. The 9 per cent rate was of direct and substantial benefit to the Exchequer and a clear case of manipulating a pension fund at the member's expense — a technique later refined and perfected by others and which has now been legislated against.

"Pension experts" who think that the change proposed by the independent review body will make the PCPF one of the most generous occupational schemes might look (as perhaps Lord Nolan would advise) at the accrual rate of the judges' pension scheme.

Look at what other legislatures do and you will see that Westminster MPs are anything but profligate when it comes to defending their interests in terms of the accrual rate. It is much the same story as any comparison between MPs' salaries here and in other countries. The most recent league table on parliamentary pay shows the UK in the relegation zone, third from the bottom, about which a leader in *The Times* on November 14, 1995 said: "In the past 30 years, the average real income of Britons has risen by 80 per cent; that of MPs is still the same as it was in 1964. In those days, to go into politics was as attractive an option for ambitious young graduates as was the law, the media or business. Now it requires a peculiar self-sacrifice ..."

The leader concluded: "British MPs ... must be paid a better rate for their job." It might here be added that their pension fund should also be urgently further reviewed, not least to provide a better deal for widows and other dependants of MPs who have died and for retired MPs whose claims have also been strongly and repeatedly pressed with the independent review body by the managing trustees.

To accuse MPs of wrongdoing when no wrong has been done is to undermine those who work to eradicate actual wrongdoing. In this instance it is also to invite those who manage the PCPF to ignore expert and impartial legal advice about their duties and responsibilities.

The Rt Hon Alfred Morris, AO QSO MP, is chairman of the managing trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Utilities, regulators and competition on a global scale

From Mr Michael R. Bond

Sir, In the issue of January 3 you refer to the need for the new chief executive of British Telecom to make peace with the regulator. It seems to me that it is the other way around. Far from regulating their respective industries, the regulators are trying to mould them in line with their own vision of how things ought to be and which, in most cases, is very different to the situation created by Parliament when the utilities were privatised.

The good news is that the Labour Party has recognised the need to look critically at the role of the regulators. It is a pity that the alleged party of business sees no need to do so.

Britain needs strong, competitive companies able to build on their home markets and develop into overseas ones as the opportunity arises. Many utilities are trying to do this, but they are not helped by spiteful regulation which changes the rules every time they successfully cope with the last beartrap set for them.

There is a lack of understanding of competition among those not faced with competition in their own fields. The fact is that the utilities are obliged to respond to attempts to steal their markets by becoming more competitive. Now that the British market is open to all comers, the measure of competition should be on a global scale. As the figures you published before Christmas showed, on a global scale, British companies don't rate. They never will if they are continually being hamstrung by well-meaning members of the salariat every time they respond positively to the challenges put before them.

Yours faithfully
MICHAEL R. BOND,
119 High Street,
Chesterton,
Cambridge.

Stock Exchange board shows signs of being Luddite

From Mr R. D. Bushrod

Sir, Stock Exchange Luddites. After the forced resignation of Michael Lawrence I wonder how many London Stock Exchange board members will reflect on dinner conversations when, undoubtedly, they held forth on the need for the dockers, the miners, the printers and the employees in general to face up to needs of a modern economy? What happened to those groups which were accused of ignoring reality and putting self-interest before the needs of their industry, I wonder?

Yours faithfully,
R. D. BUSHROD,
Beech Cottage, Lidwells Lane,
Goudhurst, Kent.

Readers can send their letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Housing gloom

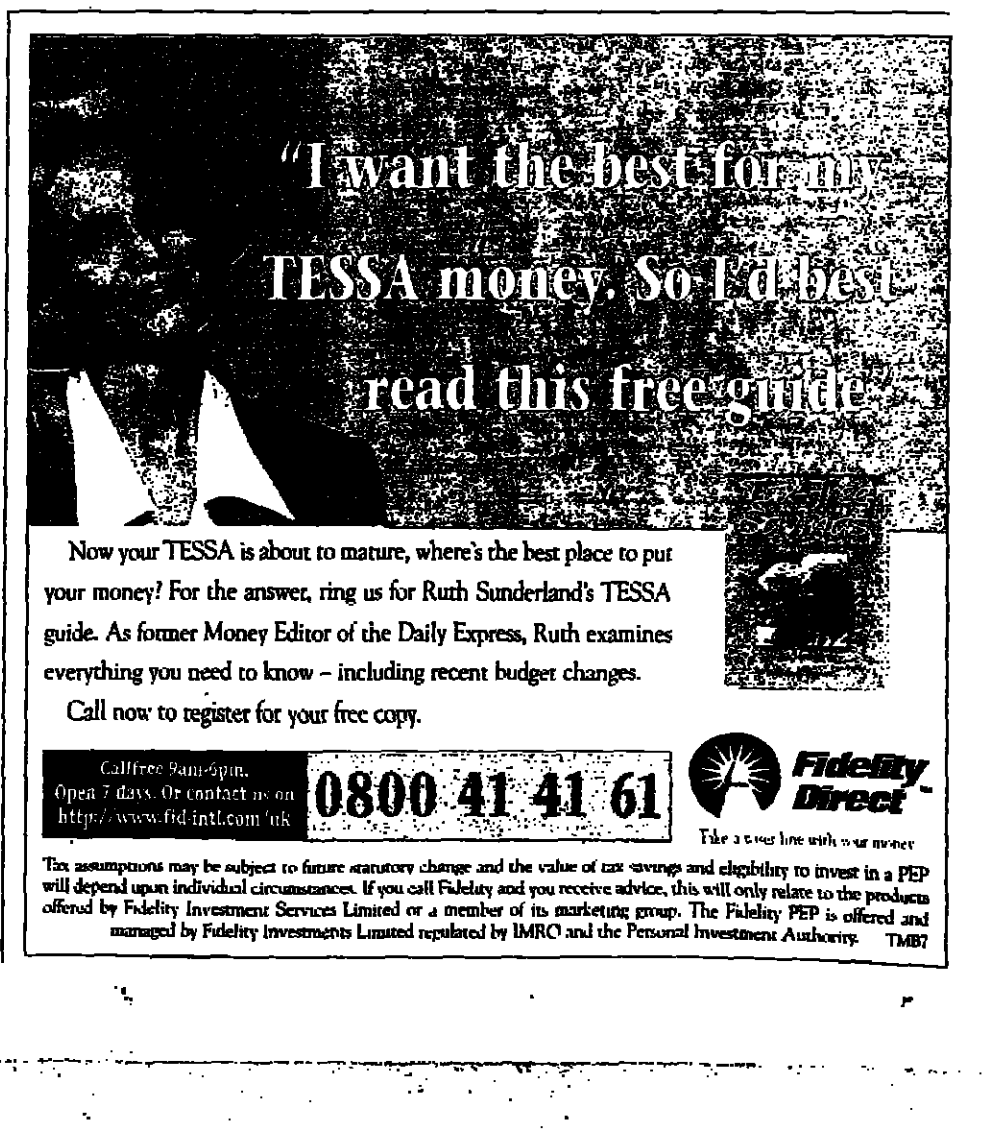
From Mr Alan Bardsley,

Sir, Professional commentary on the housing market always seems to be divorced from reality (Halifax forecasts 2 per cent recovery, December 27). Building societies promote, and commentators still endorse, the boom of the 1970s, when house price inflation exceeded borrowing costs.

The actual market is trying to come to terms with housing as just another commodity. For any of the Halifax forecasts to come to fruition would be unfortunate. The concept of continuous real equity gain in a fixed asset is insupportable: we do not expect that in other fields.

The implication of a 10 per cent decline in turnover is still that 90 per cent of previous transactions are still going on. The vast majority must be contented and perhaps, with luck, we have lost the speculative element of the market. For the blame, the societies ought to look closer to home.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BARDSLEY,
Cartref, Church Lane,
Gawsworth, Macclesfield,
Cheshire.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Ingham chief executive resigns

Alan Stephenson has resigned as chief executive of Ingham, the troubled mini-conglomerate that incurred a pre-tax loss of £1.07 million for the six months to September 30.

The company, which earned £867,000 before tax in the first half of the previous year, announced the sale of its loss-making worsted spinning business for a nominal sum. The sale will leave Ingham to focus on its UK classic car parts business.

Mr Stephenson, who became chief executive in August 1994, will remain a non-executive director.

Ingham intends to recommend proposals by potential investors, represented by SBC Warburg, which would involve a share subscription and a related pre-emptive invitation to existing shareholders at 36p a share.

Interim losses were 6.6p a share, compared with earnings of 3.2p. There is no interim payout (1.75p).

Ryland up

Ryland Group, the motor distribution and contract hire group, increased pre-tax profits to £1.55 million from £1.15 million in the half-year to October 31, on turnover that rose to £154.8 million from £118.1 million. Earnings were 3.55p a share (3.42p). There is an interim dividend of 1.17p a share (0.27p).

Society loan

Northern Rock Building Society has completed its biggest syndicated loan. As co-arranger with Banque Paribas, the society is lending £39 million of an £89 million total loan to fund the transfer of more than 5,000 homes from Rushmoor District Council to Rushmoor Housing Association in Hampshire.

Bell sells

Bell Cablemedia, the UK cable group, has sold its dormant Worcester franchise to TeleWest for £9.8 million. BCM Worcester holds the cable licences in an area next to TeleWest's Midlands franchise.

A shortage of suitable sites for new stores has forced Basil Taylor, chief executive, to seek new areas for expansion of the rapidly growing business

M&W steps up security as shop crime increases

By Martin Barrow

M&W, the convenience store operator, said that the level of retail crime has become a major concern. The company also complained of "a marked unwillingness" to prosecute or deal effectively with shoplifters.

Basil Taylor, chief executive, said: "Even more worryingly we have noticed increased levels of violent crime, often involving relatively small sums of money.

"The company has consequently needed to invest heavily in increasingly sophisticated security systems involving video surveillance, alarms and time delay devices and we have taken all practicable security measures to protect our customers, our staff and our stores."

M&W, which is based in Southampton, has grown rapidly and now operates 163 outlets, principally in southern England. However, a shortage of suitable sites for new stores has prompted the company to consider other areas.

M&W yesterday reported profits of £2.66 million before tax for the year to October 1, against £2.61 million in the previous 12 months. Michael Weston, chairman, said competition remained strong, with other retailers opening longer hours in the hope of increasing market share. M&W lifted like-for-like sales by 2.64 per cent, excluding lottery sales.

Mr Taylor said the impact of the National Lottery on operating profits had been broadly neutral. About one-half of the company's stores are agents for the lottery and sell scratchcards, and these had benefited from an increase in customer flows. But this had been offset by a decline in business at stores that did not offer the lottery.

Earnings rose to 10.89p a share from 10.64p. There is a final dividend of 2.25p, making 3.5p (3.25p).

Troubled Rexam appoints two outsiders to top posts

By Alasdair Murray

REXAM, the troubled printing and packaging company formerly known as Bowater, has appointed two outsiders as chairman and chief executive.

Jeremy Lancaster, at present the chairman and chief executive of Wolseley, the building materials group, will become chairman in May when Mike Woodehouse retires. However, he will join the board immediately as vice-chairman.

Rolf Borjesson, chief executive of PLM, the Swedish packaging company, will succeed David Lyon as managing director and chief executive in July. Mr Lyon will continue as a director for an additional 12 months.

The City was pleased with the appointments, which end 18 months of uncertainty over the succession. Rexam's share price rose 2p to close at 382p. Mr Woodhouse said: "Together, these appointments offer the prospect of a most exciting and fulfilling future for Rexam, its employees, and shareholders."

Rexam has lost 40 per cent of its market value in the past six months after two profit warnings in the autumn. The 1995 figures are expected to be 20 per cent below 1994.

The collapse in the share price cost Rexam its place in the FT-SE 100 and has made it a potential bid target. The recent rise in the share price, from a low of 327p in December, has been fuelled by market rumours of a takeover. However, Alusuisse, the Swiss metals and packaging company at the centre of many of the rumours, has publicly denied any interest in Rexam.

The new management will face a difficult task in rebuilding Rexam's share price to a sufficient level to ward off bid threats from companies that see it as a cheap way into the high-margin paper and packaging business. But customer destocking, one of the main factors behind Rexam's decline last year, seems to be slowing and analysts expect an improvement in 1996.

Mr Lancaster, 59, who is also a non-executive director of Tomkinsons and Kleinwort Benson Group, has been head of Wolseley since 1976. Last year, the group posted record profits of £245 million on turnover of £3.7 billion.

Mr Borjesson, 53, has been chief executive of PLM since 1987. PLM is owned by Industrivarden, the Swedish investment group, and is to be floated soon at a market value of about £380 million.

Weir wins £20m Chinese power order

WEIR Group, the Glasgow engineer, has won an order worth nearly £20 million to supply the main pumps and valves to the Qinshan nuclear power station near Shanghai (Martin Barrow writes).

It is the group's largest ever single order from the power industry and gives Weir a further foothold in the Chinese market. Weir Pumps, the company's biggest subsidiary, is to make almost all the pumps for the 1200Mw pressurised water reactor (PWR) plant being built under phase two of the development. Hopkinsons, the valve-maker, will provide cooling-water butterfly valves and main steam-isolation valves.

Design work starts this year and the equipment will appear on-site in 1998. The plant is being built by the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation. The deal was secured against international competition and a Chinese delegation visited Sizewell B in Suffolk to assess performance of Weir equipment in a PWR.

To help to secure the order Weir arranged a $30 million loan through Standard Chartered Bank, backed by the Export Credit Guarantee Department, to help to finance the deal.

Vibroplant quits US with sale of American Hi-Lift

By Philip Pangalos

VIBROPLANT, the specialist plant hire group, is making an exit from the United States with the disposal of its American Hi-Lift subsidiary to Primeco Inc in a deal worth about $68.8 million.

American Hi-Lift, which specialises in the sale and hire of aerial lift equipment, is being sold for $46.5 million. However, Primeco has also agreed to discharge American Hi-Lift's bank debt of about $22.3 million.

The disposal news helped shares in Vibroplant, which was only capitalised at £34.2 million prior to the US sale news, buck the gloomy market trend with a 7p rise to 81p.

The deal is conditional on shareholder approval, an environmental audit to be carried out by Primeco and US government approval under US anti-trust legislation.

Jeremy Pilkington, Vibroplant's chairman and chief executive, said the good sale price achieved was helped by "a good strong shortlist of interested parties". The proceeds from the US sale will be used to wipe out Vibroplant's borrowings, leaving the group with about £20 million net cash to fund future growth.

The Hi-Lift business, which has 18 branches across the US, made pre-tax profits of £2.3 million in the six months to September 30, on turnover of £15.4 million but only £1.4 million pre-tax profits in the year to March 31. It had net assets of £20.3 million at the last year end on March 31.

Mr Pilkington, whose family controls 51.3 per cent of Vibroplant's equity, said: "The consideration realised for American High-Lift represents a significant premium over net assets. The proceeds from the sale will enable the company to focus on growth opportunities in the UK."

Tempus, page 26

Costing liability in a new light

Nick Atkins looks at a judgment with far-reaching implications for auditors of company accounts

Last month's £65 million award of damages, the highest against a UK firm of chartered accountants, sent a shiver through the profession. The damages were awarded to ADT Limited after it relied on accounts audited by Binder Hamlyn in making an agreed bid for Britannia Security Group in February 1990.

The judgment, which is under appeal, brought into stark relief why it is that firms intend to cap the present unlimited liability of partners by incorporating or creating limited liability partnerships in Jersey. The ruling demonstrates how easily auditors can lose the protection from negligence suits afforded them by the landmark case of *Caparo Industries v Dickman*.

In 1990, the House of Lords stated in *Caparo* that auditors owe a duty to the company they are auditing and generally not to third parties. How then was ADT, which was not Binder Hamlyn's client, able to recover damages from the auditors of the company that it acquired?

Early in October 1989, ADT began negotiations with BSG, a security alarm business, about a possible agreed bid. At the end of that month, Binder Hamlyn signed the audit certificate for BSG's accounts for the year to June 30, 1989. By Christmas 1989 agreement in principle had been reached for ADT to acquire BSG. However, ADT's chairman insisted that there should be a meeting with BSG's auditors before a formal bid was made.

On January 5, 1990, the Binder Hamlyn audit partner was telephoned by BSG and asked (as a service to his client) to attend a meeting that afternoon with a representative of ADT. Binder Hamlyn had not been involved in any of BSG's negotiations with ADT.

During the 45-minute meeting, the audit partner was asked by ADT what turned out to be two critical questions. First, did he "stand by the 1989 accounts"? Second, was there anything else which ADT should be told? The partner answered "yes" and "no".

Thereafter, ADT formally made its bid and acquired BSG. ADT then discovered that the financial position of BSG was not as it expected. In 1992, ADT launched its claim, accusing Binder Hamlyn of negligent auditing.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Nick Atkins warns auditors against complacency

The High Court ruled last month that because of the audit partner's answers to ADT's two questions Binder Hamlyn could not rely on *Caparo* to defeat the claim. Knowing that ADT intended to acquire BSG, Binder Hamlyn had told ADT directly that they stood by BSG's audited accounts and in doing so assumed a legal responsibility to ADT for the accuracy and competence of their audit.

The court decided that Binder Hamlyn's audit had been negligent and that ADT was entitled to compensation. Damages were assessed as the difference between the price paid by ADT (£105 million) and the notional price that someone knowing of the audit deficiencies would have been prepared to pay for BSG (£40 million).

Subject to the outcome of Binder Hamlyn's appeal, the lessons for auditors are all too clear. The decision will certainly end any complacency over *Caparo* ending the threat of auditors being required to pick up the whole tab when a purchaser claims it relied on negligently audited accounts.

As Binder Hamlyn found to its great cost, it is all too easy for an auditor to be held to have assumed a legal responsibility to a third party for his audit.

If asked about audited accounts by a third party, the safe courses are to decline to say anything or to issue a clear disclaimer of liability before answering. It would also be wise for the response to be recorded, preferably in a letter to the third party.

That said, in the real world, a purchaser may well insist on a direct assurance from the auditor of the target company before going ahead. The auditor is likely to be under pressure by his client to give the assurance. Further claims against auditors by disappointed purchasers are inevitable.

The author is a partner in Lovell White Durrant

Seeking a reasonable inside check on fraud

IT IS ironic. For years, company directors have berated auditors for not taking specific responsibility for detecting fraud. The auditors have wriggled on the hook. They know that if they said that fraud detection was one of their duties then every time a company suffered from fraud it would be the auditors, yet again, who would be sued.

If directors were so worried about fraud, one would presume they would have installed systems to combat its likelihood. Not so. A survey by Ernst & Young of the UK top 500 companies showed that "almost 40 per cent of the companies interviewed have no in-house internal audit function".

Small wonder that Ian Plaistowe, chairman of the Auditing Practices Board, was so ebullient earlier this week when he unveiled analysis of the responses the board received to its most recent paper. This had discussed the effectiveness of internal financial controls and had followed in the wake of the APB's guidance. In the words of Philip Ashton of Price Waterhouse, who is now in charge of the APB's internal control efforts, this had gone "within a whisker of insisting directors had to report on the effectiveness of internal controls".

The responses show that this panicked directors up and down the country. "It is a great step forward," Plaistowe said. "Companies are now making sure they have effective internal controls." This is a remarkable statement. It must have seemed obvious that in a sophisticated corporate environment companies would have pretty effective systems for ensuring that everything was working properly. But they did not.

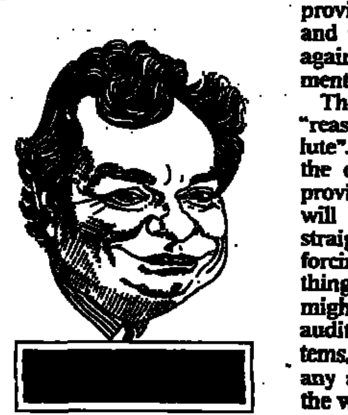
A simple suggestion that directors should state in their report and accounts to shareholders that they have an effective system of internal financial controls has resulted in corporate worlds being turned upside down. The picture is one of company chairmen phoning finance directors to ask about the health of the internal audit department only to find the last tranche of delayering they ordered had abolished it.

Now, the important issue is the definition of "effective" and quite how wide is the whisker that Ashton talked about. This could take time. Far better to try another track. And that is what the APB is seeking to do.

Plaistowe argued that to ask auditors to report on how "effective" a system of internal control was would only create another expectations gap. Auditors would certify one system effective and then find that it broke down a week after the year-end. They would get sued again. Auditors are tired of being sued and will try to avoid it at all costs.

So a wording has been created and the hopes are that it will become best practice. The example the APB put forward is that used by the BOC Group. In a lengthy section in the directors' report the system of internal control is outlined and the areas to which it applies detailed. The directors then state that the system provides "reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and recorded properly and that material errors and irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period".

The latest accounts of Hanson provide another variant. The section on internal financial control concludes with the sentence: "Internal financial control, by its nature, provides only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss."



ROBERT BRUCE

The key is the phrase "reasonable and not absolute". This formula is seen as the one which is likely to provide a way forward. It will keep directors on the straight and narrow without forcing them to say something definitive which they might regret. And it allows auditors to review the systems, but not have to give any authoritative ruling. In the words of Plaistowe: "We rather like the look of it."

If the idea takes off, the boot may well be on the other foot when it comes to auditors, who are still reluctant to commit themselves. Of the 13 accounting firms that responded to the discussion paper, only Touche Ross was deemed to be "supportive of auditors' attestation on effectiveness". Eight were opposed. But companies that are taking the "reasonable but not absolute" route will decide that if they have done the work then auditors should provide the other side of the bargain. Talking to Tony Isaac, BOC's finance director, it became obvious that this was an objective. "I don't have a problem with the auditors commenting on internal control," he said. As far as he could see, it was now the auditors who had problems. And that was down to what he called "the litigation cloud over the whole profession".

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This lady's ready for returning

IT IS the season for in-fighting and skulduggery at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Nominations for the election of the next vice-president were fought over at last weekend's council conference. The likely hats in the ring are the thoroughly decent sole practitioner, Michael Groom, the ebullient and substantial figure of BDO Stoy Hayward partner, Chris Swinson, and the austere Sheila Masters of KPMG. All three have stood before but the real battle will be between Masters and Swinson. The institute has never had a woman president and it would be thought a public relations disaster to have Masters rejected for a second time. But as a council member whispered from behind his copy of Machiavelli: "There is a secretariat cabal keeping Sheila Masters out. They know that if she got in she would sack them all."

More thoughts

THE retirement from Coopers & Lybrand of insolvency guru, David Graham QC, has not meant an end to his interest in the more unsavoury aspects of financial behaviour. He is researching a history of insolvency law. In the latest issue of Coopers' journal, *Phoenix*, he has provided some nuggets. In particular, Thomas More's account in 1513 of the abuse of the law of sanctuary. Churches gave sanctuary but found that "malicious heinous traitors" ran to them with other people's money and goods and spent the lot having "bidden their creditours gooe whistle them". And they say things have changed.

Name game

THE ICA council conference made progress on regulating the profession. But it has name problems. Given regulators are now "Offthis" or "Offthat" they want to know which is the least worst of "Office of Professional Standards" or "Professional Standards Office".

Unplanned lunch

EVEN printing gremlins are becoming cynical these days. In my column last week, I appeared to have suggested that senior partners should offer clients "the benefit of a prescient lunch". This should have read "a prescient hunch". Though come to think of it . . .

ROBERT BRUCE

M&W steps u
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UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	197.20	209.70	− 2.50	0.26
Grofund Equity	272.00	289.30	− 2.30	2.03
Grofund Euro	248.10	263.60	+ 0.70	1.21
Grofund Expt Bal	125.20	130.90	...	0.81
Grofund Gilt	77.03	79.41	+ 0.04	5.09
Grofund Japan	180.40	190.90	+ 0.80	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	625.30	665.30	− 5.70	2.57
General Inc	537.30	571.60	− 4.90	2.57
UK Growth Acc	421.90	448.90	− 4.20	2.78
UK Growth Inc	281.10	299.10	− 2.70	2.78
Higher Inc Acc	775.80	825.20	− 4.10	4.13
Higher Inc Inc	431.50	459.10	− 2.40	4.13
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	207.40	219.00	...	5.47
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.30	100.70	...	5.47
Nth America	328.20	349.20	− 5.90	
Europe	328.00	349.00	− 0.60	0.86
Brt Growth	84.61	90.01	− 0.92	2.90
Brit Fndmtls Acc	113.10	120.40	− 0.30	4.57
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.16	84.22	− 0.20	4.57
Global Opps	96.35	102.50	− 1.10	0.30
Balanced Acc	81.27	86.19	− 0.34	2.78
Balanced Inc	58.00	62.30	− 0.24	2.78
Japan Acc	48.29	51.38	+ 0.02	...
Pac Basin Acc	395.90	421.20	− 0.90	0.90
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.20	140.30†	..	7.13
High Inc Equity	178.00	189.20†	− 1.40	4.47
Worldwide Bond	290.60	310.70	+ 0.50	4.51
American Growth	328.60	351.20†	− 4.90	0.37
Asian Pacific	328.30	351.10	− 1.80	0.15
Assets & Earnings	288.10	308.50	− 2.30	2.79
Euro Capital Acc	164.30	175.70	− 1.80	0.59
Extra Inc	44.69	47.45†	− 0.26	8.47
General	265.20	283.20	− 1.80	2.94
Global Opps.	80.57	84.05	− 0.38	0.46
Japan	128.20	137.10	− 0.30	...
Managed Inc	47.72	50.77†	− 0.21	4.58
Mastertrust	157.30	168.20	− 1.10	1.49
US Emerging Cos	165.30	175.90	− 0.90	..
Ethical	76.25	81.12	− 0.50	2.40
International	130.20	139.50	− 0.90	0.87
Dividend & Growth	65.53	69.71†	− 0.42	4.40
Global Gwth & Sec	71.20	76.06	+ 0.05	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	95.30	101.60†	...	2.51
American Portfolio	112.85	119.78†	...	0.93
European Portfolio	113.61	121.33	..	0.47
High Income	52.50	52.80	...	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	71.38	75.89†	+ 0.67	...
Pacific Portfolio	151.84	163.08†	− 0.61	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	89.54	95.75	..	2.94
Utility & Bond	57.76	58.46	.	6.54
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	736.11	747.23	...	4.31
Fxd Int Sec	157.80	158.44	...	0.03
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	726.57	737.55	.	4.39
Investment Acc	232.40	132.89	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	127.47	127.98	...	8.90
Fixed Int Acc	216.90	217.78	...	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	94.40	99.58	− 0.27	2.98
Buck Bio-Tech	47.10	50.73†	..	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	169.49	177.83†	...	0.63
City Fin Assets	77.94	81.84	.	2.84
City Fin America	108.17	111.49	− 2.38	...
City Fin Intl	89.51	93.89	− 0.38	0.87
City Fin Japan	165.90	182.87†	+ 3.67	..
Fdmx Hse Cap	297.05	321.42†	...	2.27
Fdmx Hse Inc	197.14	209.72	..	4.24
Buckley Wrld Gth	138.72	147.04	− 1.59	...
Falmouth Cap Gth	145.49	153.15	...	...
Falmouth Intl	156.94	164.25	..	...
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	55.78	58.52†	...	2.44
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	56.26	59.80	+ 0.32	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	72.47	77.18	− 1.50	
Dragon Growth	70.82	75.52	− 0.23	0.74
Equity High Inc	89.74	94.83†	− 0.37	3.98
-do- Accum	124.60	132.55	− 0.53	3.88
Extra Income Inc	38.63	28.04†	+ 0.04	7.20
Extra Income Acc	28.04	29.53	+ 0.05	7.20
European Gwth	58.90	62.59	− 0.22	1.05
Evergreen	29.99	32.07	− 0.09	...
General Equity	96.14	102.81	− 0.86	2.80
Japan Growth	53.80	57.30	+ 0.32	...
Pedigree Gwth	57.80	61.58	− 0.47	2.03

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	210.70	224.10	− 0.70	...
Income	189.31	201.39†	− 0.39	4.25
UK Growth	74.38	79.12†	− 0.32	0.44
International	82.41	87.66	− 0.23	0.07
Ecology	92.89	98.81	− 0.32	1.89
European	149.24	158.76	+ 0.29	..
Far Eastern	315.90	336.00	− 0.80	...
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.00	104.40†	+ 0.10	7.37
Gilt Yield	119.70	126.30†	− 0.40	6.73

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth	420.58	447.42	− 3.69	2.70
-do- Accum	563.71	599.69	− 4.94	2.70
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1443.50	1467.00	..	2.90
Income #	1036.10	1054.20†	..	4.10
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.10	162.20	..	3.72

For Manulife see Canada Life

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Income	227.80	242.30	− 0.70	3.58
High Yield	145.10	154.40†	− 1.50	5.80
-do- Accum	461.90	491.40†	− 4.70	5.80
Smllr Cos Div	56.73	60.35	− 0.12	2.84
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	125.70	133.70	− 1.90	...
Asian Growth	337.70	359.30	− 5.70	0.23
-do- Accum	395.80	421.10	− 6.90	0.23
North American	96.91	103.10†	− 1.04	0.25
European Special	116.40	123.80	− 1.60	0.18
European	168.40	179.10†	− 1.10	0.45
-do- Accum	222.00	236.20†	− 1.40	0.45
Global Eqty Inc	116.20	123.20	− 1.10	2.09
Japan	441.40	469.60	− 1.50	.
Japanese Special	236.40	251.50	− 0.80	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	168.20	177.00†	− 0.76	2.13
-do- Accum	197.40	207.80†	− 0.78	2.13
UK Sel Ptflo	146.40	154.20†	− 1.09	2.46
-do- Accum	174.10	183.20†	− 1.09	2.46
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.85	79.63		3.55
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	80.10	85.03†	− 0.44	4.03
European	95.64	101.50	− 0.10	1.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
	93.94	99.02	− 0.18	1.45
	483.40	514.20	− 4.40	1.61
	442.40	470.70	− 3.80	3.02
	644.30	685.50	− 5.60	3.02
	72.32	78.81	+ 0.17	...
	£710.53	£714.15†	− 92.09	2.13
	£1,34.65	£739.86	− 112.09	2.13
	111.70	118.80†	− 1.60	1.91
	£14.21	£14.95	− 12.90	4.34

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Income	109.70	117.80	− 0.80	4.27
US Smllr Cos	377.80	403.20	− 1.50	−0.10
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	78.53	82.08	− 0.24	4.11
Investment Trust	101.95	107.20	− 0.27	...
UK Smllr Cos	94.93	99.80†	− 0.34	1.03

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London follows Wall Street lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3053½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3052½	+ 9½	4.2	11.3
656	413	Abbey Ntl	636	- 6	3.8	12.7
368	250	Allied Irish	364	+ 1	4.0	10.6
313	198	Aus New Z	308	- 2	5.2	..
4425	2531¼	Bank America	3967¾	- 68¾	..	
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	285½	- 4½	2.6	13.1
812½	557¾	Barclays	758½	- 2½	3.7	10.3
488	288	Bk of Ireland	478	- 4	3.6	8.4
525	418	Cater Allen	452	- 3	6.5	7.5
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4125	-125		
340½	216¼	Close Bros	328		3.3	14.5
£162¼	£129¼	Commerzbk	£159¼	-23¼	3.5	..
1375	859¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1271½	+ 16¾	0.4	..
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3126¾	- 9¼	2.4	..
861¼	598¾	Espirito Santo	645¾		5.5	8.7
1811	1136¾	Fuji Bank Y	1443¾	- 11	0.4	
480	305	Gerrard Ntl	463	..	6.1	15.0
253	180	Hambros	205	- 2	4.8	...
1039	680	HSBC	985	- 17½	3.5	12.9
1001¼	576	HSBC HK	969½	- 10	3.6	12.6
413	228	Irish Perm	413	+ 1	2.8	8.5
483	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
152	85	King Shaxson†	152	+ 1	7.4	11.8
417	217	Lloyds TSB†	314	+ 1		
607	479	Nat Aust Bk	600	- 4	6.7	...
687	454	Nat West	632	- 7	4.5	9.9
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.6	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	66	+ 2	1.9	36.4
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scotl†	537	- 12	3.6	12.6
1478	906¾	Schroders	1358	- 5	1.3	18.3
1180	823¼	Schroders N/V	1093	- 7	1.6	15.6
111	81	Singer & Fried	107	- 1½	4.3	11.1
625	246	Stand Chart	586	+ 4	1.8	14.7
121	70	Union	95	- 3	3.9	...
£146¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£135½	- 181¼	2.2	..
287½	211	Westpac	282¼	+ ¼	4.8	..
295	200	Wintrust	275		5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
276	143	Ascot Hldgs	277		..	0.6
735½	487	Bass†	717	- 7	4.9	16.5
473	339	Boddington	470	- 2	2.4	24.2
192	137	Burtonwood Brwt	174	- 5	3.9	16.8
186	137	Eldridge P 'A'†	190		3.0	..
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'†	416	..	2.6	16.4
580	402	Greenalls Gp	573	- 3	3.1	..
658	468	Greene King†	617	- 1	2.9	15.2
357	240	Hardy Hansn	317	- 1	4.1	..
169	150	Hawkins	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3040	Holt J	3113	- 2	2.2	16.7
347	219	Mansfield	321	+ 3	2.1	18.1
325	268	Marston Thmp†	324	..	2.8	15.3
573	391½	Morland†	573	+ 30	2.6	18.0
8¼	6	Paramount†	6¼		4.4	10.0
703	307	Regent Inns	689		1.3	27.1
2469¾	1287½	SA Breweries	2375	- 37½	1.5	31.7
640	482	Scot & Newc†	604	- 9	3.9	18.3
337	230	Scot & New P/P	330		...	
231	173	Tom Cobleigh	226	- 2	1.5	36.7
309	211	Vaux Group†	273	- 1	4.7	14.1
645	449	Wetherspoon JD	644		1.6	26.2
702	521	Whitbread†	675	- 6	3.8	16.7
597	483	Wolvrhmptn D†	580	- 8	3.3	..
310	186	Yates Brost	290		7.3	26.8
475	425	Young 'A'	431	..	4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

BUSINESS SERVICES

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88¾	ABI Leis	92	..	5.9	8.4
595	430	Adams & Harvey	435	..	3.6	5.7
21	13	Alexanders	16		5.5	28.3
113	88	Appleyard	101	+ 1	7.4	10.9
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	..	2.1	..
623	505	BSS Group†	509	+ 1	4.9	14.6
38	31	Baird	37	...		
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16	..	9.8	11.4
28	18	Bogod 'A'†	26	..	3.4	9.3
483	345	Brammer	428	..	3.9	16.5
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	18		1.4	...
98	78	Brit Fittings	87		4.6	13.2
270	215	Caffyns†	245		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	77	...	4.5	20.9
94	70	Charles Sidney†	84	..	5.5	13.2
61	35	Cook (DC)†	55	..	3.9	8.1
320½	220	Cowie	303	...	3.9	13.1
159	125	Dag Motors	136	...	7.1	10.4
598	503	Dawsons Ml	505		1.9	11.1
501	378½	Diploma†	388	- 1	4.7	...
370	230	Electrocomps†	336	- 9	2.2	22.8
280	162	Eurotis Elec	273	- 4	1.9	18.9
295	64	Eurodollar†	88	+ 15	11.3	5.2
120	87	European Mtr†	96	- 1	6.6	8.2
449	260	Evans Halshaw	287		6.8	8.9
732	612	Farnell Elec†	694	- 14	1.8	20.2
72	48	Fife Indmr	66	...	6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	19½	+ ½	5.5	8.1
37	18	Glenchewton	34½		1.1	..
109	61	Gowrings	86		3.3	14.3
218	148	Harris (Phillip)†	218		4.2	13.9
225	142	Headlam	225		2.3	19.7
554	258	Henlys	540½	..	2.3	20.1
137	81	Holders Tech	133		5.8	25.3
163	86	IDA Intl	153	- 1	1.3	16.7
430	200	Inchcape	258	+ 3	7.3	23.2
88	53	Jacks (Wm)	60		1.6	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	178		3.2	15.2
358½	264½	Lex Service	324	- 3	6.6	17.3
155	146	Lookers	146	- 1	6.5	8.1
22	8	Malleys Gp	10½	..	5.7	14.2
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¼	...	0.7	20.1
71	38	Mistaiths	42			5.9
534	330	Nestor†	475	- 5	2.0	16.3
298	78	Northumbert	247	+ 8	0.9	19.8
165	135	PCT	135	- 2	7.1	9.6
283	225	Pendragon	273	+ 1	3.8	14.3
166	123	Perry Gp	147		6.3	11.1
148	128	Quicks Group	138	+ 3	5.2	11.8
198	160	REA	185		2.7	22.0
3¼	2¼	Reece	2¼			
73	48	Reeson	61	..	2.6	12.4
6½	2¼	Ross Gp	3½			..
63½	37½	SEP Ind	53½	+ ½	3.8	
17½	8½	Salter	13½			7.7
271	228	Time Products	267	- 1	4.3	15.6
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273		2.6	17.3
325	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325		4.5	20.3
88	54½	Wilshaw†	57½	- 1	1.7	13.7
80	58½	Wyko	83		1.9	.
118	68	Young (H)†	108	- 1	4.5	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

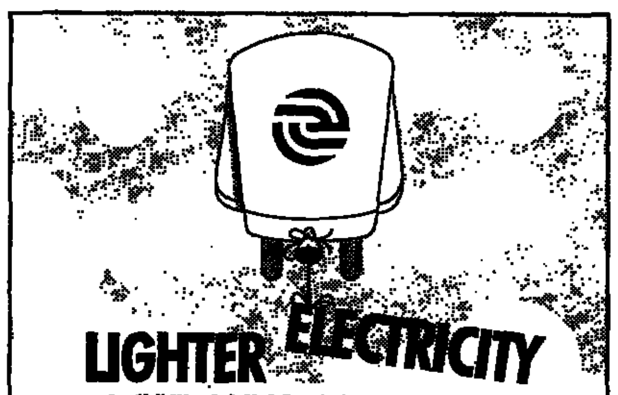
HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
46½	28¾	Baring Em Eu	46¼	+ 4¼	..	..
375	300	Baring Tribne	372½	- 1½	2.3	..
96	84½	Br Assets	94	- 1	6.1	..
98¾	83	Br Empire Sec	98¼	- ¼	1.9	...
39	25	Br Empire Wts	39			
233	194	Br Invt	229	- 1	2.9	..
101	66	Brazilian	71½		...	...
258	211	Brunner	252	- 2	2.7	..
138	115	BZW Conv†	128½	- 1½	7.6	..
508	318	Caledonia	492	- 7	3.2	..
53	34¾	Central Euro Grwth	47	+ 2	1.2	..
185	144	Clans & Eastern#	179		2.5	..
188	161	Contl Assets	179	+ 1	2.1	..
80	75	Dover Inv Inc	75		13.9	..
345	278	Derby Cap	338	- 2		
166	148	Derby Inc	158		14.4	..
736	617	Dunedin Inc G	700	- 5	4.8	..
91	79	Dunedin Japan	88½	- 1	...	
333	288	Dunedin Smlr†	319½		3.6	
42	18	Dunedin Wts	34			
827	678	Dunedin Wrldwt	819	- 7	1.4	..
109½	82¼	Edin Dragon	106	- ¼	...	..
43½	21½	Edinburgh Inca	38½			
339	281	Edinburgh	328	- 3	3.6	
176	127	EFM Japan	169	- 2		
376	307	Electra Invt	364½		2.6	
227	180	Electric Genl	228	- ½	1.9	
147	108	English Scot	145	- 2		
350	273	Enterprise Asset	346	+ 2	1.9	
201	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	195½	- ½	0.2	
83	62¾	Fidelity Jap Val	79	- 1	0.2	
109	81	Fidelity Spec Val	105		0.6	
175	149	Finsbury 'A'	173		3.5	
81	62	First Spanish	80		0.4	
338	267	Fleming Amer	284	- 3½	0.7	
74	51½	Fleming Chinese	60½		1.0	
39	20	Fleming Ch Wts	33			
254	198	Fleming Claver	252		2.9	
367	288½	Fleming Contl	367		1.2	
156	125	Fleming Em Mkts	152			
258	189	Fleming Ent	249		2.6	
389	279½	Fleming F East	368	- 1	0.5	
403	327	Fleming Fledg	402		0.9	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inc	99		5.8	
87	53	Fleming Indian	54		2.8	
48	34	Fleming In Wts	29½			
280	203	Fleming Japan	272	- 2		
303	252½	Fleming Merct	298½	- 2	3.1	
98	72½	Fleming Ntl Res	87			
339	269	Fleming Overs	335½	- 2½	1.7	
166	124	Foreign & Col	164	- 1	1.4	
113	91	For & Col Inc Gwh	112		3.6	
120½	93	Frgn Emg Mkts	109	- 1½		
87	67½	Frgn Enterprise	86	- ½	1.2	
353	204½	Frgn Eurotst	283	- 1	0.8	
135	115	Frgn German	131	- 1	0.5	
196	137½	Frgn Pacific	191½	- 2½	0.9	
139	120	Frgn PEPT	136		3.5	
176	153	Frgn Smaller	173½	- ½	1.8	
134	90	Frgn US Smlr	125½	- 3½		
24	17½	Fulcrum Cap	18			
46	33	Fulcrum Inc	34			
194	141	Fulcrum Zero	163	- ½		
220	186	Gartmore Brit	220		4.1	
213	174	Gartmore Eur	212		2.4	
176	127	Gartmore Emrt	175		0.9	
101	84	Gartmore Shrd	89		13.5	
249	207	G'more Smlr Cos	248		2.8	
180	84	Govett Inc Inv	87		11.9	
183	138	Govt Orntl Cap	173	- 1		
113	104	Govt Inc	105		11.1	
105	86	German Inv	102	- 1	0.2	..
248	192	Gov Asn Sm Cos	231	- 1	0.1	..
119½	88	Gov Emg Mkts	108½	- 1½	0.3	..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1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1735	+ 5		
360	103	Cantab Pharms	360	...		
614	233½	Celltech	588	+ 5		
375	97½	Chiroscience	304	+ 2		
188	31	Cortecs	167	- 3		
917	587	Glaxo Wellcome	878	- 13	4.3	20.8
294	182	Medeva	276	- 9	1.6	17.8
719	273	Scotia	543	- 11		
722	444	SmKlBeecht	688	- 9	2.4	30.6
714	416	SmKlBe Unit†	687	- 10	2.5	30.4
1337½	840	Zeneca	1335	- 13	2.9	25.2

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
87	21	Alexon	87		..	..
244	182	Allders†	175	- 7	5.0	.
615½	324	Argos	570	- 19	2.6	24.0
133	63	Ashley (Laura)	131	- 1	...	
251	54	Asprey	250	.	0.6	34.3
225	158	Austin Reed	158	...	4.7	9.2
146	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	143	..	6.7	13.8
124	85	Bentalls	98	..	2.7	10.6
88	58	Bellamy	67½	..	4.8	38.8
88	30	Blacks Leis†	65	- 3	4.3	34.8
194	107	Body Shop†	147	..	2.2	8.7
600	465	Boots†	590	- 11	3.6	16.5
54	18	Brown & Jackson	22			
278	205	Brown (N)	264	- 1	2.4	28.1
139	66	Burton	130½	- 2	2.1	28.1
159	90	Cantors	113	..	3.3	19.5
435	235	Carpetright	424	+ 2	3.1	25.3
219	132	Christies Int	201	..	1.4	34.1
480	353	Church	410	+ 13	4.2	10.8
118	67	Clinton Cards	115	...	5.9	14.5
150	84	C'ty Cmnts	149	.	4.6	...
813	708	Courts Furnish	756	+ 2	1.1	23.7
220	183	Crown Eye	190	...	7.2	7.4
339	238	DFS Furniture	396	+ 5	2.6	23.9
448	166	Dixons Grp	409½	- 14½	2.3	21.9
580	580	Elys (Wimbldn)	580	..	3.8	36.8
11¼	5½	ERA Gp	8½	...	...	13.2
161	77	Essex Furn	113	- 1	4.8	..
236	147	Etam	189	- 1	4.1	..
460	320	Fine Art Dev†	411½	- 1½	4.7	12.6
66	37	Fired Earth	68	..	1.9	23.8
144	81	Flying Flowers	132	.	2.0	17.2
295	183	French Conn	185	...	...	12.0

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq†	548	- 3	7.2	19.8
507	390	Bulmer (HP)†	504	+ 1	3.1	15.8
146	99	Burn Stewart	130		4.8	28.0
487	352	Grand Metrt	445		4.2	15.7
536	404	Guinness	487	- 2	3.6	15.1
445	317	Highland Distl†	338	- 1	2.9	15.3
217	175	Macallan-Glen	182	- 3	0.9	41.9
710	600	Macon Mtn 'A'†	625		2.2	17.6
694	532	Matthew Clark	693	- 1	3.8	.
140	61	Merydew Wt	106	- 6	2.4	

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian†	578	+ 4	5.8	8.8
430	295	Mid Kent Hdgst	428	..	3.9	11.6
1140	876	Northumbriant	1168		3.2	9.2
669	475	Severn Trent†	635	- 14	5.9	7.6
2400	1855	South Staffs	2388	..	3.8	13.9
555	459	South West†	504	- 2	6.9	7.0
731	517	Southern†	682	+ 1	5.1	8.1
575	456	Thames†	542		6.1	7.4
641	467¼	Utd Utilities	500	- 9	5.7	7.5
800	592¼	Welsh†	732	- 2	7.2	8.7
100½	100½	Welsh Cn Prf	100¼		9.5	.
391	256¼	Wessex†	329	- 5	5.2	7.0
677½	472	Yorkshire†	594	+ 9	6.0	7.8

Source: Primark

© USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
109⅝	102	Treas 15¼% 1996	102	..	14.83	6.19
107¼	102	Exch 13¼% 1996	102		12.94	6.28
104	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.70	6.18
101⅞	97⅛	Treas 7% 1997	101	+ ⅟₁₆	6.93	6.28
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	107 †	...	12.38	6.19
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104½		10.05	6.21
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	103	...	8.44	6.33
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	114½		13.11	6.35
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106 †	+ ⅟₁₆	9.18	6.43
102	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101½		7.13	6.46
100	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	...	6.75	6.70
117	114	Treas 14% 1996-01	118		12.06	6.56
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	121	...	12.72	6.58
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	113	...	10.55	6.65
108	100	Treas 9½% 1999	107 †	+ ⅟₁₆	8.83	6.67
118	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	115	...	10.59	6.72
111	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111		9.45	6.76
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	97		6.15	6.78
112	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	- ⅟₁₆	9.20	6.74

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
108	100	Conv 9% 2000	107	- ⅟₁₆	8.37	6.87
105	96	Treas 8% 2000	104½	- ⅟₁₆	7.68	6.90
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	123 †	+ ⅟₁₆	10.65	6.90
113	104	Treas 10% 2001	112	- ⅟₁₆	8.90	7.08
100	90	Treas 7% 2001	99	- ⅟₁₆	7.03	7.08
114	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	- ⅟₁₆	8.63	7.25
104	94	Treas 8% 2003	104	- ⅛	7.69	7.29
116	105	Treas 10% 2003	115	- ⅟₁₆	8.67	7.33
119	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118	- ⅟₁₆	9.70	7.17
83	76	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82 xd	- ⅛	4.24	6.19
113	103	Conv 9½% 2004	112	- ⅟₁₆	8.42	7.49
96	85	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	- ⅟₁₆	7.00	7.48
108	97	Treas 8½% 2005	106	- ⅟₁₆	7.95	7.49
114	103	Conv 9½% 2005	112	- ⅟₁₆	8.42	7.53
130	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	- ⅟₁₆	9.65	7.45
101	94	Treas 7¾% 2006	99	- ⅟₁₆	7.50	7.50
102	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	- ⅟₁₆	7.64	7.55
104	95	Treas 8% 2002-06	102	- ⅟₁₆	7.79	7.62
124	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123 xd	- ⅟₁₆	9.52	7.41
108	97	Treas 8½% 2007	106 xd	- ⅟₁₆	7.95	7.58
138	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136	- ⅟₁₆	9.80	7.45
112	101	Treas 9% 2008	110	- ⅟₁₆	8.11	7.63
103	94	Treas 8% 2009	102	- ⅟₁₆	7.79	7.67

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
87	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	86	- ⅛	7.21	7.76
112	101	Conv 9% 2011	111 †	- ⅟₁₆	8.10	7.78
112	102	Treas 9% 2012	111	- ⅟₁₆	8.08	7.78
82	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	- ⅟₁₆	6.78	7.50
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	102	- ⅟₁₆	7.80	7.77
101	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99 †	+ ⅟₁₆	7.76	7.81
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	102	- ⅛	7.83	7.78
111	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	- ⅟₁₆	8.00	7.83
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	139	- ⅟₁₆	8.62	7.87

UNDATED

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44		7.94	...
31	28	Treas 2½%	31	+ ⅛	7.91	...
50	45	Consols 4%	49 †	- ⅛	8.05	...

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
215	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	215	- ⅟₁₆		1.78
112	109	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112	- ⅟₁₆	1.33	2.46
179	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178	- ⅟₁₆	2.84	3.32
175	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174	- ⅛	3.04	3.41
115	109	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115	- ⅟₁₆	3.06	3.40
184	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	183 xd	- ⅛	3.10	3.44
166	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165	- ⅛	3.27	3.49
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	171	- ⅟₁₆	3.32	3.52
142	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	- ⅟₁₆	3.37	3.55
152	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150 xd	- ⅛	3.43	3.59
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144	- ⅛	3.46	3.62
122	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120 †	- ⅛	3.46	3.60
120	109	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118 xd	- ⅟₁₆	3.48	3.61

هكذا من الأصل

■ FILM 1

Paul Verhoeven's flesh-filled *Showgirls* proves to be a tacky and pointless folly

■ FILM 2

... but Carl Franklin's *Devil in a Blue Dress* is an evocative thriller set in 1940s Los Angeles

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

In the overblown *The War*, Kevin Costner plays the Vietnam vet drawn into battles closer to home

■ FILM 4

... while *The Run of the Country*, with Albert Finney, is a woolly tale of Irish romance

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** makes his excuses and leaves as the *Showgirls* show how unsexy wall-to-wall nudity can be

This too, too sullied flesh

Showgirls
Odeon West End
18, 131 mins
Miserable garish folly

Devil in a Blue Dress
Curzon West End
15, 101 mins
Atmospheric thriller

The War
Empire 2, 12, 125 mins
Simpering fable with Kevin Costner and kids

The Run of the Country
Odeon Haymarket
15, 109 mins
Faded blarney with Albert Finney

Hollywood lunacy scaled a new peak back in November 1992 when Charles Evans, a producer, property developer and co-founder of a sportswear empire, paid $2 million — in cash, no less — for the kernel of a film called **Showgirls**. No script existed, but there was an idea burning inside the head of Joe Eszterhas, the town's most expensive scribe, which he outlined to Evans in a reported four minutes. No stars were attached to his notion of a raunchy rock musical set in Las Vegas, but there was a hope — just a hope — that Paul Verhoeven, Eszterhas's director on *Basic Instinct*, might be interested.

Last year Hollywood lunacy scaled an even greater peak when the film was unveiled, almost proudly, with an NC-17 certificate: the first mainstream product to be widely released with the adult rating most American producers fight desperately to avoid. For what had that money, and that controversy, bought? Just a hoary yarn, as old as *42nd Street* or *A Star is Born*, about a hot, grasping girl called Nomi, played by Elizabeth Berkley, an actress plucked from nowhere, to which she will probably return.

Nomi begins as a lowly stripper. She has sex in a pool with Kyle MacLachlan, the Diaghilev of Las Vegas, toys vaguely with lesbian affections, and encourages Gina Gershon, the town's reigning diva, to fracture a hip by falling down stairs. By the end, of course, she is the Strip's main attraction, spewing out of a volcano in a tasteful show called *Goddess*.

Verhoeven's treatment only makes the crude storyline, limping drama and threadbare characters worse. No shred of subtlety clings to his images. He is out to ogle flesh. There is plenty of razzmatazz and gold lamé, but no heart, not even a faint erotic tingle as portions of the female anatomy jiggle or strut before us. Nomi, like all the showgirls, uses her body as a commodity. This is also the film-makers' approach: and it seems particularly mean of the script to single out a fictional rock star, one Andrew Carver, as Las Vegas's brute male when the species overflows on both sides of the camera.

"This picture," Eszterhas trilled in the pages of *Variety*, "will absolutely be on the cutting edge of contemporary musicals." But even as a musical *Showgirls* fails. David Stewart, late of the Eurythmics, presides over a soundtrack that pummels the ears without benefit, while the dance moves, mixed in with much writhing and fondling, are too repetitive and absurd to make the screen shake.

All told *Showgirls* is a miserable folly: a strenuous attempt at a big, bold movie that both bores your brain and numbs your feelings. If you stay the course until the final credits, you will be informed that "Animal action was monitored by the American Humane Association. No animal was harmed in the making of this film." Cheering news, I suppose, but what about the humans who watch it?

At times in **Devil in a Blue Dress**, a superbly atmospheric adaptation of Walter Mosley's crime novel, you also feel your sensitivities under attack. A character like Mouse, sidekick to Denzel Washington's amateur detective Easy Rawlins, is a trigger-happy psychotic: yet, in the hands of actor Don Cheadle, his portrayal is light and sympathetic. Should we really find this human keg of dynamite so amusing?

Carl Franklin's film, a belated successor to his excellent first feature *One False Move*, has other trouble spots. Such as Jennifer Beals, the devil in a blue dress herself. A femme fatale should have some magnetic allure, but Beals's weak performance as Daphne Monet, the white girl and politician's friend that Easy is hired to find, suggests someone who would have difficulties attracting a fly.

Since Daphne lies at the mystery's centre, the damage is not insignificant. But so much else in the film is beautifully realised. Franklin and production designer Gary Frutkoff evoke the time and place — 1948, Los Angeles — with a loving care that never degenerates into a fussy accretion of period props. Tak Fujimoto's camera roams the manicured lawns, basks in the glaring sun, and dives into bustling night spots.

Rawlins is a GI who faces mortgage problems when he loses his job in an aircraft factory. Offered $100 to locate Monet, he jumps to it, only to find corpses, police and politicians collecting round his feet.

Helped by Washington's wary performance as the ordinary Joe plunged into deep water, Franklin finds much quirky humour in the tale. But this is always entertainment with a thoughtful undertow. Easy's search for Daphne takes him across LA's class and ethnic barriers, yet the film still gives the impression of unfolding in a golden age, before urban decay took hold.

After cooking up *Fried Green Tomatoes*, producer-turned-director Jon Avnet has found a few more scraps of Southern charm to put into **The War**. They do not make a very nourishing meal.

The time is 1970, the place Mississippi. Family man Kevin Costner has returned from Vietnam with some vicious chest stitches and signs of mental trauma. He keeps losing jobs but, as he blandly tells his son Elijah Wood, "so long as we got hope, there's always a chance".

There's always a Southern accent, too. Costner's is ill-suited, but it is more understandable than some of the children's. And it is on the children that the film's story ultimately rests. Young Wood, impressive as usual, leads the offspring in building a tree house, which comes under attack from a family of louts. Another war, therefore, is fought alongside Costner's tortured memories of Vietnam, and one that grows to preposterous dimensions. Avnet and his players manage a few affecting moments, but so much here is overblown, like the new, racist schoolteacher in her bright pink dress. She exists in the script only to be knocked down. What did you do in *The War*, Daddy? I groaned, my pet, and looked at my watch.

Much the same happened with **The Run of the Country**, a tepid and woolly-headed Irish drama from the pen of Shane Connaughton, author of *My Left Foot*. Let the production notes explain: "*The Run of the Country* is a story of love: love between a boy and a girl, between father and son, and love for Ireland." Abstract ideas outnumber dynamic events by about ten to one, and you almost despair of getting involved in the comings and goings of 17-year-old Danny, his wild chum Prunty, and the girl just north of the border who wins Danny's heart.

Despite passing references to the Troubles, the IRA and the SAS, time seems to have passed this film by. Life goes on as it might have in the 1950s, and the stale feeling is enhanced by Albert Finney, playing his third movie Irishman in three years. As the stern, widowed Garda sergeant struggling with a teenage son, Finney lends some much-needed force to a drooping film. But his is acting in capital letters, and it scarcely boosts an authenticity already imperilled by the casting of an earnest, picture-postcard American, Matt Keeslar, as Danny.

The landscapes, at least, are the genuine article, and the director makes the most of them. His name? Peter Yates, lurching somewhat in a bizarre transatlantic career that has already encompassed the Royal Court Theatre, *Bullitt*, Cliff Richard, Tom Selleck and Cher. Whatever next?

Gina Gershon and Elizabeth Berkley in *Showgirls*, a "strenuous attempt at a big, bold movie that bores your brain and numbs your feelings"

"Sassy, sexy movie-making... Franklin's long-awaited follow-up to 'One False Move' doesn't disappoint."
Tom Charity, TIME OUT

"Jazzy and elegantly assured detective drama."
Angie Errigo, PREMIERE

DENZEL WASHINGTON

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS
15

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A Russian debt paid in full

Benjamin Britten Song Series
Wigmore Hall

"TICK tock, tick tock, went Britten's piano accompaniment to Pushkin's poem, *Lines written during a sleepless night*. Then, suddenly and quietly, a faint chiming began, as Pushkin's own clock joined in, striking midnight and, it seemed, even more, until the song had ended."

This anecdote, recalled by Peter Pears in the journal he kept during his visit with Benjamin Britten to Pushkin's birthplace in 1965, has become a little emblem of the composer's relationship with Russia, the subject of the penultimate evening in the Wigmore Hall's revelatory Britten Song Series, which began last September.

Britten's songcycle *The Poet's Echo* bounced back more truly than either Pears or Britten could have expected. The empathy felt by the composer for the poet's words still resonates through some of the most intensely concentrated music he was to write for the human voice. Joan Rodgers eloquently recreated the passion and the pain of the ignored artist in the cycle.

To hear Rodgers in the Russian song repertoire which framed the Britten was to enjoy a sophisticated, highly intelligent and flawlessly artistic presentation of a literature deep under her linguistic skin. The Mussorgsky cycle, *The Nursery*, was sung with bright-eyed but discreet characterisation. This was a Russian storybook read in an essentially English nursery. Her Tchaikovsky, too, came to life as vivid, heightened speech, the words of *At the Ball* dancing gladly through the line with Malcolm Martineau's piano playing, and the modal contours of *Was I not a little blade of grass* as full and free as unaccompanied folk song.

Britten's realisation of *Mad Bess*, Purcell's own compassionate, tragicomic reflection on deranged humanity, began Rodgers's recital. The song bounced its own echoes off another Britten-Purcell realisation from the early evening concert, when Richard Jackson had given a word-lively performance of *I'll sail upon a Dog-star*. Jackson was joined by tenor Adrian Thompson, counter-tenor Michael Chance and pianist Julius Drake for a re-creation of a 1971 Aldeburgh Festival concert which presented Britten's fourth canticle, *Journey of the Magi*.

The original quartet of James Bowman, Pears, John Shirley-Quirk and Britten was, of course, something of a hard act to follow both for Tuesday's singers and for those of us in the audience who saved up their holiday money to buy a student ticket for the great occasion 25 years ago.

But some of the same thrill remained: the chill of those ice-glazed repetitions of the "cold coming" in the voices' close harmony: the hallucinatory quality of the night journey to the Birth which was to be a Death; the tug of Britten's taut notes against Eliot's sturdy words.

The fourth canticle was matched by Britten's second, *Abraham and Isaac*, given powerful dramatic presence by Chance and Thompson: and framed by two *Mörike Lieder* of Hugo Wolf and a lilting, valedictory *Die seele Christi* by Heinrich Schütz, following on from the canticle without a break, just as it had done in Aldeburgh.

HILARY FINCH

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Sheppard leads the way

Tallis Scholars
St John's

THE first programme in the Tallis Scholars' mini-series at St John's, Smith Square (three concerts in as many months), focused on the music of John Sheppard, presenting his *Cantate* Mass alongside works by two other 16th-century English composers: Robert White and Thomas Tallis.

The most remarkable thing about the Tallis Scholars is their consistency, both in the standard of performance and in the overall sound they produce, even when, as on this occasion, there were some changes in personnel. So high is that standard, the smallest blemish — and there were a few fluffed entries here — makes a disproportionate impact.

Although the group is well known for its recording of music by continental composers such as Josquin and Palestrina, its sound is perhaps most readily associated with English sacred polyphony, and notably those stratospheric treble lines (beautifully sung by Deborah Roberts and Ruth Holton).

This was certainly the case in the Sheppard mass setting, although there were quite extended passages for the lower voices alone, in which the equally excellent basses Francis Steele and Donald Greig shone. On first hearing, the *Missa Cantate* is clearly a fine piece, but the performance seemed at times tentative.

The singers were clearly at home with Tallis's *Lamentations* (thought to have been composed early in the reign of Elizabeth I), and gave a magisterial account of them. That Sheppard was capable of composing in a direct, expressive vein was clear from his poignant setting of *In Manus Tuas*, while White's extended account of the *Miserere* confirmed that in England, as on the Continent, penitential texts drew something very special from composers of church music in the Renaissance.

There is more Sheppard, White, Tallis, Tye, Parsons, Mundy, Fayrfax and Cornysh later in the season.

TESS KNIGHTON

صورة من الأصل

■ CHOICE 1

Sir Peter Hall recruits a star for Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

VENUE: *In preview.* Theatre Royal, Haymarket

■ CHOICE 2

Elgar Howarth directs Birtwistle's *Panic*, the Proms sensation

VENUE: *Tonight at the* Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

. . . while Mark Elder conducts the CBSO in English music

VENUE: Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tonight

■ YOUNG ARTS

Children learn something of the elegant craft of bookbinding from the experts at the British Library

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

AN IDEAL HUSBAND First night of previews for Peter Hall reviving his 1992 production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. A star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret and Penny Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Tonight-Jan 16, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Jan 17, 7pm ♿

MACBETH First night of previews too for English Touring Theatre's successful production. Paul Higgins takes the title role and Stephen Unwin directs.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm. Opens Jan 15, 7pm ♿

PERCUSSION BASH The London Philharmonic opens the new year with a celebration of the world of percussion. Highlights of the day include a warm-up breakfast bash with LP percussionists, an all-day creative workshop with Sir Harrison Birtwistle culminating in a music theatre piece performed at 5pm, workshops and open spaces for informal performances. A concert tonight, conducted by Elgar Howarth, will feature Birtwistle's *Panic*, first heard at the 1995 Proms season.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Registration 9am-10.15am, concert 7.45pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM Mark Elder and the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** offer three English 20th-century lyrical masterpieces in tonight's programme. Delius's *Song of Summer* opens the concert, followed by Tippett's showcase for violin, viola and cello, the *Triple Concerto*, and Holst's colourful *The Planets*.
Symphony Hall, Centenary Square, (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm, repeated Sat, 7pm ♿

NORWICH Opening night for Jim Cartwright's cracker of a comedy, **The Rise and Fall of Little Voice**. Alison Burrows plays Little Voice, living through old records and glamorous stars, harbouring a secret talent. Carolyn Jones plays her mother and Stephen Ley her mother's lover, both with unscrupulous and ambitious plans.
Playhouse, Gun Wharf (01603-766 466). Opens tonight, pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm ♿

EDINBURGH: Caroline Hall directs **The Steamie**, Tony Roper's modern Scottish classic: memories, hopes and vivid gossip swapped by four women in the days before launderettes.
Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street (0131-229 9697). Free preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Jan 20 and 24, 2.30pm. Until Feb 3 ♿

HULL: Conductor Barry Wordsworth and pianist Martin Jones team up tonight for the first of many **Hallé Orchestra** whistle-stop concerts this season. The well-mixed programme of favourites includes works by Glinka, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Gershwin.
City Hall, Victoria Square (01482 226655). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Okyo and Kyoto paintings (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (0171-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery**: Gods in Love: the Carracci Cartoons Restored (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Lure of the Limelight (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: Africa: Art of a Continent (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Dynasties: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-387 8000) . . . **V & A**: Jain Art from India, Expressionist Prints (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ACCORDING TO HOYLE** Tense and crafty William Gaminara play centering on the poker sessions played between erstwhile friends.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

◪ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mats today and Sat, 2pm. Final week ♿

☐ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI** Anastasia Hille plays the beleaguered heroine in Cheek by Jowl's new production. In London as part of its world tour.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ **JOLSON** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD** Adrian Scarborough and Simon Russell Beale play Stoppard's attendant lords. Matthew Francis directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm ♿

☐ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB**. English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an east London bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-839 4488). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7pm; mats Sat, 4pm and Sun, 3pm

◪ **SALTIMBANCO** Admired by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil arrives for a London season. Forty-five performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no animals.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tue-Sun, 7.45pm; Sat and Sun, 2.30pm. Until Jan 18 ♿

◪ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK** Jean Rhys' 1934 novel, shocking when it first appeared, adapted by Joan Wiles for the Sphinx company. A naive beauty enters the night-club world of the demi-monde. Sue Parrish directs. Start of national tour.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Jan 27.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . . ☐ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . . ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . . ☐ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) . . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Albery (0171-369 1730) . . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15): Dull Europudding from Simone de Beavoir's novel about love and immortality, with Irene Jacob and Stephen Rea. Director, Ate de Jong.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

THE KINGDOM Breezy medical soap opera made for Danish TV by cult director Lars von Trier.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15): Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. Talky tale with small pleasures. Lasse Hallstrom directs Dennis Quaid, Kyra Sedgwick.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS** (PG): Overbearing vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, down among African tribes. Director, Steve Oedekerk.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, with Hal Scardino and Litefoot. Director, Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Over-manic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Haymarket** (01426 915353)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy, with a human face featuring Tim Allen.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

Books bound for glory

KIPPA MATTHEWS

Girls from Sarum Hall, Hampstead, at the British Library: the Library's own bindery takes a month to make a book; the girls had 45 minutes

At the British Library, **Hilary Finch** joins a group of children in a lesson on the ancient art of bookbinding

Curiouser and curiouser. There I was, hunting for the autograph manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, surrounded on all sides by George III's collection of 60,000 leather-covered, gold-tooled and monogrammed books in the King's Library, when suddenly a panel of books slid aside to reveal a tiny wooden door. Behind it crouched a narrow, dark corridor, more and still more books, a jar of orange marmalade — no, surely . . . And a bubbling fragrance of coffee, the smell of freshly-sharpened pencils, of old and crackling paper . . .

If the New Building at St Pancras should ever open, the British Library's Education Service will surely mourn the loss of its secret rabbit warren. But for at least another year it is safe, say Karen Brookfield and Kate Barnes, the eager emissaries of the written and printed word who, since 1991, have been celebrating its history and artistry with parties of children from all over London. This morning they were preparing to welcome a group of eight-year-olds in forest green from Sarum Hall School in Hampstead to one of their primary school workshops.

Not long ago, the sedate King's Library was transformed into a drama space for a play about Yaqut, the 13th-century Islamic calligrapher; but today the focus was on the books themselves — the making, the binding, the decorating, the illuminating.

Another shelf of books rolled away and another little room glowed out of the warren. A long table busy with baskets of needles and thread, bulldog clips, strips and sheets of coloured paper, cork tiles. In the British Library's own bindery, it takes a month to make a book. Sarum Hall had 45 minutes, and that included time for the untangling of the mathematical conundrum of spacing the holes and numbering the pages: an impenetrable puzzle in which 4 faces 1 on Side A, and 2 faces 3 on Side B, and the pattern of 5, 4, 8, 1 and 3, 6, 2, 7 is called a quarto.

But first the folding. Professional binders do not use their hands but a bone rule. A tricky one, this, especially for Hampstead. "Hands up if you eat meat?" (One or two tentatively raised elbows). "Well, when the butchers have prepared the meat, they give the bones that are left over to bookbinders." ("Why don't they wait until the animals are dead?")

Then the stitching. A special needle: sharp, strong and very long. A tiny puncture in the forest green. "Well, I wouldn't put it through your jersey just now. Bring it round from the back to the front, through the same hole. Now it's probably difficult for other people to hear if you're singing . . ."

Back in the main hall of the King's Library, the other half of the group were learning about decoration. And women scribes. "Look at Christine de Pisan! She was born in 1364, and wrote a lot about women in history. It's so often mostly about men, isn't it? But I could see one of you, 600 years ago, sitting in your scriptorium, using a quill or a reed pen. Now, what do you think made that deep, rich red colour? Strawberries? Redcurrants? No. Well done, Imogen . . . crushed beetles! Imported Moroccan beetles. Now let's prepare one of Christine de Pisan's inks . . ."

Cut from scriptorium to sanctorum, and the dimly-lit hall of manuscripts where the Lindisfarne Gospels lie open at folio 139, radiating the great initial page at the start of the Gospel according to St Luke. An excited cry from Diana Grace Jones, the class teacher. "Oh, there's the cat. We've had it on the board for a whole term." The benevolent feline pounced round the bottom right-hand corner of the border, birds flying from its tail. Eadfrith, says the colophon, wrote the tome; Ethelward impressed it and covered it; Billfrith, the anchorite, adorned it with gold and gems. And Aldred glossed it in English between the lines with the help of God and St Cuthbert.

Jones has been bringing her charges to gaze upon the holy brothers' handiwork for eight years now — but this is the first time they have had a chance to learn the details of the great book's making. "I like to teach the Anglo-Saxons from the imagination. I read them *Beowulf*, and they love the idea that they were such a fierce and pagan lot, yet in 200 years' time they were producing the most beautiful works of art. And that art doesn't have to be personal, with the artist receiving all the acclaim. This was done for its own sake — for the sake of beauty, for the glory of God. They respond to that.

"They've already cottoned on to the fact that the books in our own school library are falling apart. And that the books here aren't. So they're learning about really bothering, really taking care. Next term it's the Norman Conquest, and we'll be able to make our own books about the Bayeux Tapestry. We can't quite work out the way in which the pages are numbered at the moment. But we're getting there."

● *For details of all the British Library's education resources and its spring-term workshop series, contact: The British Library Education Service, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG (0171-412 7797; fax 0171-412 7508)*

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■ VISUAL ART

Plans afoot in Piccadilly: the Royal Academy's president predicts a year of momentous change

■ THEATRE 1

A refreshingly funny slice of seedy London life comes in *Goldhawk Road* at the Bush

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

. . . but the sordid world revealed in the Old Red *Lion's* Bukowski bill does not merit staging

■ THEATRE 3

"Multicultural hogwash" at the National comes *to an end as the* leading actor quits *Cyrano*

Simon Tait talks to the newly re-elected president of the Royal Academy about his plans for expansion and development

Presidential ambitions for the Academy

It takes the kind of Panglossian rose tint that would make even Virginia Bottomley blush to turn a likely £500,000 loss into a triumph, but as the Royal Academy enters the most critical year in its recent history, its president, Sir Philip Dowson, has it. *Africa: Art of a Continent* closes *on January* 21, having drawn an estimated 250,000 visitors and general critical acclaim, but Dowson admits that it is likely to be the academy's biggest ever loss-maker.

As he never misses the chance to point out, the academy gets no public funding at all. And if it did, it would probably not have been allowed to do the exhibition.

"We jealously guard our independence because it makes it possible to do things which would otherwise be impossible. I really believe the academy is the only institution that could have presented the Africa exhibition: it's so fraught with political and financial problems that we alone could undertake it because we are responsible only to ourselves and the Queen," he says.

Political problems included having to change some of the Islamic exhibits so as not to inflame fundamentalist rage in Egypt, and it is not the first time the academy has courted political fury. Three years ago Dowson's predecessor, Sir Roger de Grey, ignored Foreign Office advice and went ahead with *The Sacred Art of Tibet*, which highlighted the continuing destruction of ancient Tibetan heritage by the occupying Chinese forces.

But financial considerations could easily have been a more persuasive reason for not going ahead with the African exhibition when a major core-under pulled out (although there was some sponsorship from De Beers, the Anglo-American corporation).

Instead, the academy decided on aesthetic grounds: "We felt that the time was right, that we had almost an obligation to present it. It's enormously important. We practically had to create a new museum within the galleries in six weeks, *a great tribute to* the organisers and the academy staff," Dowson says.

The loss on the largest and most expensive exhibition the academy has mounted, costing almost £1 million, might have been much more if the Martin Gropius Bau in Berlin had not decided, after it opened in London, to take it *there for three months* before the show moves to its other scheduled venue, the Guggenheim in New York.

> ‘We are responsible only to ourselves and the Queen’

In his first interview since his election, Dowson says 1996 is the academy's year of decisions, when its future will be cast and adjustments made to prepare for that future. He has just been re-elected for his third year as president, a formality after a nail-biting contest in 1993 to take over from the late de Grey. A founder of Arup Associates, he is only the fifth architect to be elected, beating another, Colin St John Wilson.

The abundance of architectural candidates was no accident. The project de Grey bequeathed to the academy was the acquisition of 6 Burlington Gardens, the home behind the academy of the *Museum of Mankind, which* moves back to the British Museum in 1997. A draft lottery scheme is being circulated among members in the next few days before a formal bid is made to the Arts and Heritage Lottery Funds to convert the building to the *academy's use.*

The freehold is transferring from the Department of the Environment to the Department of National Heritage, and the academy wants it on the same basis as its present building, a 999-year lease on a peppercorn rent.

Three-quarters of the space at 6 Burlington Gardens will be used as an extension of the present academy, which is now bursting at the seams thanks to the increased activities *brought by the new* Sackler Galleries. The money-spinning *Manet to Gauguin* exhibition last year, for instance, had 250,000 people *easing through those rooms.*

The architect Michael Hopkins has devised a masterplan which includes a brasserie, "the best art-book shop in London" and a great atrium between the two buildings. The ground floor would be for the RA Schools, giving them *exhibition space and studios.*

"This would be a centre for the visual arts, and in the middle of Piccadilly. I think it would be a great gift to the nation," Dowson says, and he has already started by clearing half the cars out of the academy's forecourt and replacing them with fixed seating.

The most notable innovation in the new acquisition would be the architecture centre. "We desperately need a place which is a greenfield site, not associated with any professional or government or commercial institution but absolutely, in that sense, untied." The academy has a popular programme of architectural lectures, hosts seminars on urban matters and plans an exhibition on *links* between the north and south of London.

"This architecture centre would be the natural place for all these sorts of discussions," Dowson says. "Major issues of public importance in urban matters and the environment *can be debated and discussed* because we have no axe to grind, we are an open place. I'm not thinking of presenting just models and drawings, which are difficult to understand, but using new technology in presentations so that we can try to present in a way *which grabs people.*

"The environment as a whole and design within the environment is of national importance because the health of cities is the health of nations, and the urban problems of the 21st century are the heart of any discussion."

The existing galleries are in the process of being upgraded, thanks to sponsorship with which comes endowment funding for the future maintenance of the rooms. All this, plus the opening of the Burlington Gardens building, needs to be in sight of completion by 1998, so that Dowson, who must retire as president at 75, can go happily in 1999.

It will probably make him one of the greatest developing presidents that the academy has had. Appropriately, an exhibition opening on February 15 commemorates a previous reforming president, Frederick Leighton. Leighton's *last reported words when he* died 100 years ago were "my love to the Royal Academy", but pragmatism infuses Dowson's sentimentality.

"My hope is to lay foundations, foundations in every sense, because we need an organisation which will meet *those challenges of financial* backing as well as design, and everything we do now will be to meet those requirements. If I can get those foundations in place, I shall feel that I've come to something."

● Africa: Art of a Continent *is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438) until January 21*

DES JENSON

Academic excellence: Sir Philip Dowson is determined "to lay foundations to meet the challenges of financial backing as well as design"

Return to the gallows poll

RADIO: **Peter Barnard** on the end of Thatcher – and the start of a scintillating new series

Politicians get away with murder, thanks to the electronic media. So fast is information disseminated, so instant is the analysis and so rapid the transition from this crisis to the next that even the most appalling cock-ups get little more than their allotted 15 minutes of infamy.

Which is why programmes that look backwards serve a *most useful purpose: they* can often reveal more by taking a longer perspective, and they also serve to remind us of the full horrors attendant upon the absence of someone who has the guts to say "No, minister" when faced with a politician in full *cry.*

Consequences (Radio 4) is a series about the ramifications of public policy. It is introduced by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, a man with the journalist's essential instinct: he knows how to let a good *story tell itself.*

This week the subject was the poll tax, as all but its inventors called the community charge. This tax, much more than the issue of European integration, was to *bring down Margaret* Thatcher.

We know the story, and it was retold here with admirable clarity through the voices of those who assembled and then disassembled the policy. But I was as much struck by the coincidental messages *that were supplied by unre*lated events.

The ambition to abolish the rates was announced at the Tory conference in 1984, but wiped off the front pages by the Brighton bomb. At the start of 1986, the Cabinet met to consider the final poll tax *proposal, but that meeting* began with the Westland crisis. Thus poll tax discussion was truncated (and opponents such as Nigel Lawson silenced) because Michael Heseltine walked *out of the Government. And* on the day Kenneth Baker assembled the press to launch the poll tax, the space shuttle *Columbia* blew up.

People less inward looking than politicians, less obsessed with their own small world, might perhaps have *paused to wonder whether* three disasters might not be sending a message about a fourth.

Alas, Thatcher had long since become, as someone put it in the programme, "captivated by an idea at the expense of political realities". Baker, *one of five* Environment Secretaries during the life of the poll tax, had put on slide shows and fancy graphics in a room at Chequers in order to convince Thatcher that the poll tax was a winner.

Graphs, bar charts and "pictures of houses with chimneys" were all used to overwhelm the central contradiction of the tax, that a charge imposed by central government *as a way of* neutering local government would nonetheless be blamed on local councils, not on Whitehall.

But there was, though, a certain symmetry to the whole sad episode. In 1981, Heseltine — the then Envi*ronment Secretary — had* considered and rejected replacing the rates with the poll tax.

In 1990, Heseltine stood against Thatcher, precipitated the arrival of John Major, and was called into the Cabinet . . . to abolish the poll tax. Ain't life grand?

THEATRE: No need for a plot in West London; Bukowski, the dead Beat, goes on; Rostand's nose out of joint in India

Chekhov at street level

Goldhawk Road
Bush

HE Goldhawk Road is the ort of street you find less and ss in gentrified West ondon. In it, you can buy econd-hand hubcaps and heap Indian jewellery, eat aribbean fish stews or overone liver and chips, and see e ghosts of several ownmarket dramatic characrs. The Steptoes drove their orse and cart down it, the amp in Pinter's *Caretaker* umbled *along it to* "the best ublic convenience in Shepherd's Bush", and a character Billy Roche's *Poor Beast in e Rain* ran away from eland with her fancy-man, nly to go mad in one of its abby side-streets.

The Bush, which is on the orner of Goldhawk Road and hepherd's Bush itself, is early mindful of its duty to e street's reputation, for it ave Roche's marvellous play *s premiere* and is now preenting a highly enjoyable iece actually named after it. imon Bent's comedy is set in flat that almost audibly *eseeches Hammersmith* ouncil to condemn it and settle its motley occupants in tower block in White City. reet, house, people — all are seedy disarray.

"But there's no plot," wailed friend as we walked down oldhawk Road after the ay. Nor is there, not really. ut they said the same about ekhov, and the effect here is a *Cherry Orchard* or *Three sters* transposed to the orld of Pinter's *Homecomg* or, again, *Caretaker*. The aracters even have neoekhovian habits, such as terjecting irrelevant oddities into the conversation ("If you stand under a pylon long enough you get leukaemia") and indulging in *fin de siècle* rumination about the future ("Fifty years from now they'll have found a cure for death").

The legal occupant is Trevor Martin's splendidly lugubrious Paul, a retired coach-driver deep into girlie mags and hypochondria. By way of preparing for death, he has summoned Colin and Reg (John Stimm, Neil Stuke) who may or may not be his long-neglected sons. In their wake comes Ralph (Danny Webb), a sort of punk spiv for whom they have been selling pirated software, and Jack Carr's John, a former workmate of Paul's given to making phone-calls to his wife and mistresses from what he swears is the outskirts of Aberdeen.

*Bent gives us some alarm*ing insights into the sexual habits of coach-drivers, those Don Juans of the M25, and some entertainingly glum ones into loneliness and ennui. Only when he deals with the wrangles of Paul's matriarchal home-help and her unhappily married daughter does his writing become predictable and repetitive. Elsewhere, all is fresh and funny enough to leave one accepting, even welcoming, the absence of conventional plot.

Indeed, Bent's point may be that these lost people are incapable of sustaining anything so conventional and considered as a plot. Ralph actually plans to get Paul to buy his flat from the council at the usual discount and then resell *it himself at a profit* — but can so chaotic a criminal bring off such a coup? Lopakhin as failed conman: updated, relocated Chekhov again.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Jack Carr: woman trouble

Carnal porridge

Double Bill
Old Red Lion

AT THIS same theatre a year ago, in a promising first play called *Afters*, the dead beat poet Charles Bukowski was *reincarnated first as a mouse* and then as a human again in order to confront some London bar flies with the poverty of their lives compared to his roister-doistering exploits. Now comes the Way Off Broadway Company from Vancouver to show us some actual Bukowski material, prose and (or so the programme says) poetry, adapted for the stage by Michael Wener, who also directs, and *Michael Schaldemose. On the* whole, I preferred the mouse.

The pub theatre was packed solid, but most of the audience had probably been lured there by the titles of the two 75-minute plays rather than by Bukowski's reputation. *Erections, Ejaculations and Exhibitions* is the first one, *The F*** Machine* the second (this machine does make an appearance at the end, in what is absolutely nothing more than a schoolboy joke).

What the adapters appear to have done is join up some of their author's scattered writings to make patterns that will conjure up Bukowski's sordid world of compulsive drinkers and fantasists, whores and *rapists. In the first play we* meet the sexually voracious Harry (Schaldemose) selling himself to the even more voracious Connie (Deb Pickman) with the opening line "you know, I do well on the sex quizzes".

This leads to a repetitious sequence of complaints by him, to her and to us, about what bitches women are, and complaints by her about what a slob Harry is, and how he doesn't do what a woman wants done.

The *Machine* pattern is a mosaic: fantasies of sexual and murderous aggression, *sometimes treated as comedy,* that brighten Harry's hobo life. Ian Butcher does sturdy work as a succession of roughs and toughs, but once again it *all goes on and on, men* coupling with women, with men, with the dead, and finally with that nasty machine. We can have all that sort of thing at home without going to the theatre to see it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Good riddance to curried Cyrano

I HAVE *some* very good news for you. Naseeruddin Shah, the silken-skilled actor from Bombay who has propped up alone — and for well-nigh three months — the woeful *Cyrano* at the National *Theatre, has tired of the production.*

This latest adaptation of Edmund Rostand's story, transposed by Jatinder Verma and his Tara Arts group to India in the 1930s, will end its inelegant innings in just over a week. *It will* not, as originally conceived by Verma and the National, travel on to India itself. Theatregoers there should thank Shah for his act of theatrical euthanasia. They should not, however, write to him c/o Tara Arts.

It is easy to see why Shah is loath to tour his homeland with *Cyrano* and Tara. The latter — "a pioneering Asian theatre company" in this country — has contrived to produce two hours and 45 minutes of multicultural hogwash. It is a wonder the Indian star, in lucrative *demand in Bombay's film world, has* swallowed this swill for so long.

With the exception of Shah, who interprets with panache the etiolated role of Cyrano Danmull Barchha. *Cyrano* is an embarrassment. *With any luck, his* brusque *adieu* should ensure that the bubble of Tara Arts is burst at last.

Since its establishment nearly two decades ago by the Kenyan-Asian Verma, Tara has been treated invariably to cottonwool reviews by the liberal British critical Establishment. Its formula is predictable and requires little by way of authentic invention. Take a classic of the Western dramatic canon, "*curry* it" (as one waspish critic put it), throw in heaps of Urdu dialogue and *voila*, you have a dashing, Indo-Western theatrical *experience* (a "*post-colonial*" *Tempest*, for example).

It has taken our critics 20 years to see through something Shah saw through in no time at all. If adapting a classic does *not move it in a meaningful new* direction, if the "Indianisation" of a European work does not rise above the level of a mediocre conceit, and if the cast is seldom better than pedestrian, it is time to shout "enough" . . . or "*bus ho gaya hai*", as Verma would prefer.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

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Chance and circumstance can shape even the greatest of men, **Ian McIntyre** finds in a new biography of America's 16th President

Masterly work made from a piece of folly

LINCOLN
By David Herbert Donald
Jonathan Cape, £30

A whimsical but enduring convention of biographical writing decrees that authors should profess remorse at what they have inflicted on their families in the course of their unending researches. "For Aida and Bruce," writes David Herbert Donald, "who have had to live with Lincoln for most of their lives."

One feels for them. Lincoln's secretaries may have revered him as "a backwoods Jupiter", but the 16th President of the United States, a shambling and uncouth man, was only minimally house-trained. The voice was high and piercing. He was addicted to puns and to stories that were every bit as tall as the famous stove-pipe hat into which he frequently stuck correspondence and documents.

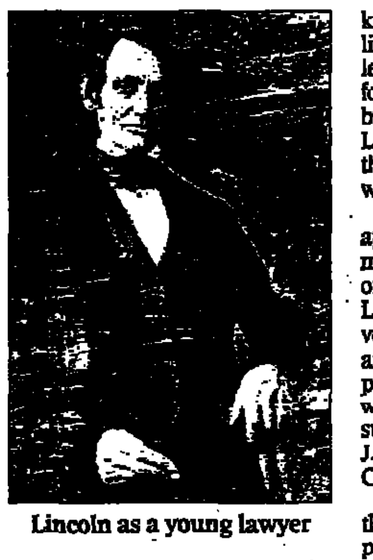
In male company the tone of his anecdotes could veer from the folksy to the scatological. A century on, Lyndon Johnson would certainly have slapped his thigh at the one about the English family who kept a picture of George Washington in their lavatory. "Most appropriate," countered their American guest. "There is nothing that will Make an Englishman Shit so quick as the sight of Genl Washington."

And yet to make an interesting narrative of Lincoln's first 50 years would test the skills of a Scheherazade. "Why Scripps," Lincoln said to a journalist keen to write his campaign biography, "it is a great piece of folly to attempt to make anything of my early life." It could, he said, be condensed into one sentence from *Gray's Elegy* — "The short and simple annals of the poor."

Boldly — possibly rashly — Donald disregards this guidance from the horse's mouth about how to handle the tedious years as carpenter and riverboat man, soldier and postmaster, blacksmith and surveyor. He also acknowledges that he has devoted more attention than some earlier biographers to Lincoln's "brain-numbing labor" in his law practice: in consequence we are over a third of the way into this long book before he reaches Washington as President-elect.

From 1860 the pace quickens. Within weeks of his election every state of the lower South had taken steps towards secession. Initially Lincoln seemed totally unable to make things go right. Early in 1862 things looked so desperate that he contemplated for the first time the prospect of Confederate success, and spoke of "the bare possibility of our being two nations".

Donald is a highly fastidious biographer: "In tracing the life of Abraham Lincoln, I have asked at every stage of his career what he knew when he had to take critical actions, how he evaluated the evidence before him, and why he reached his decisions." His account is based largely on the President's own words, whether in letters and messages or in conversations recorded by reliable witnesses. Donald's encyclopaedic knowledge of the vast secondary literature is deployed only when letters or documents cannot be found elsewhere. The result is a biography written essentially from Lincoln's point of view, using only the information and ideas that were available to him.


Lincoln as a young lawyer

Although this is an austere approach, it is a rewarding one, made possible by the availability of the Lincoln Papers in the Library of Congress. After the ten-volume authorised life by Nicolay and Hay appeared in 1890 these papers were sealed until 1947, and were therefore not available to such major biographers as Albert J. Beveridge, William E. Barton or Carl Sandburg.

Donald devotes refreshingly little space to correcting the errors of previous biographers. Equally commendably, he sets his face against historiographical discussion: "This is a book about Lincoln — not a book about the literature about Lincoln."

Readers seeking a general history of the United States during the mid-19th century must accordingly look elsewhere. So must those interested in a detailed account of the Civil War or of the internal affairs of the Confederacy. Donald offers no broad philosophical discussion of the origins of the conflict, and spends little time on the question of whether it was the first modern war. "These are important subjects, but they did not present themselves to Abraham Lincoln in any practical way."

Of the many which did, Donald gives a masterly description. Lincoln's relations with McClellan and later with Grant; the development of his thinking on the Emancipation Proclamation and the ideas and rhetoric of the Gettysburg Address; his campaign for re-election in 1864 and Radical plans to unhorse him — all are passed in orderly and judicious review.

Donald believes that in focusing closely on *Lincoln himself* — "on what he knew, when he knew it, and why he made his decisions" — he has been led to paint him in different colours from earlier biographers. A less modest man might have said that the colours were not just different, but truer.

He is struck by how often chance played a determining role and emphasises Lincoln's enormous capacity for growth. Most importantly he insists on the essential passivity of Lincoln's nature. Indeed he chooses as an epigraph a sentence from a letter which convinces him that this was a trait which Lincoln recognised in himself: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me."

After half a century of Lincoln studies, Donald does not believe in doing his readers' work for them. Like all the best biographies, this finely written book seeks to explain rather than to judge. What it explains is how one of the least experienced and most poorly prepared men ever elected to high office became the greatest American President.

He mounted the warrior's steed

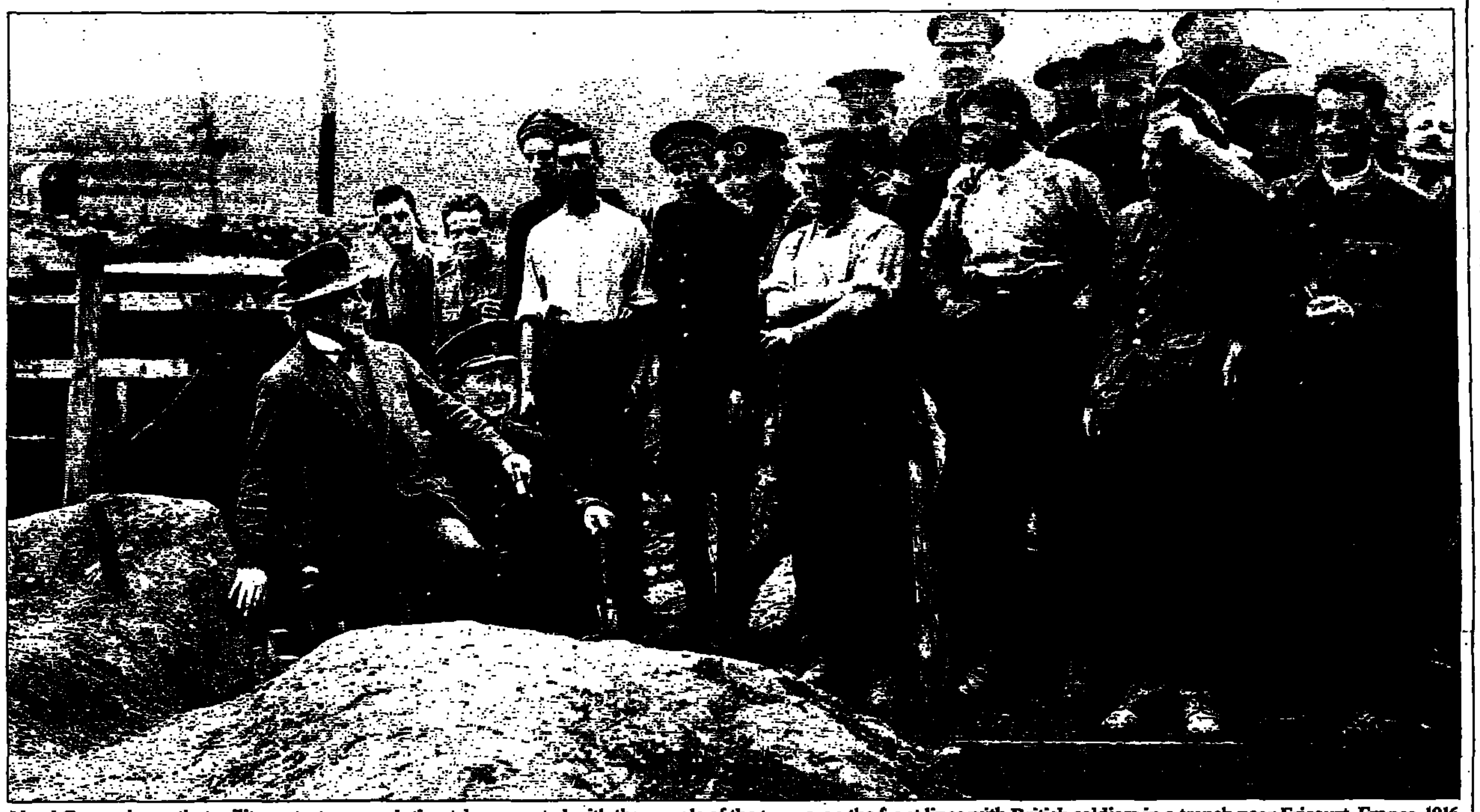
John Grigg

THE STRATEGY OF THE LLOYD GEORGE COALITION 1916-1918
By David French
Clarendon Press, £40

At the time Lloyd George formed his coalition Government at the end of 1916, Britain was in far greater peril than most people realised. Still facing the combined German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires with their interior lines, Britain was running out of manpower, shipping, food and cash. Its principal allies, France and Russia, were even more gravely weakened.

Soon matters became much worse, as Germany declared unrestricted U-boat warfare, Russia's effective participation in the war was brought to an end by revolution, and the French Army, after another failed offensive, was struck by mutinies. On the credit side America entered the war, but in such a state of military unpreparedness that it would be a long time before there could be any significant consequences on the Western front, where the war had to be decided. Britain's contribution was, therefore, more essential than ever, but in early 1917 its ability to survive seemed increasingly doubtful. Stocks of wheat, which had been enough to last 14 weeks when Lloyd George took office, had fallen to nine weeks' supply by mid-April.

Yet within two years of the formation of his Government, and before the Americans could achieve a massive presence in Europe, the enemy empires had collapsed and the war was won. How much of this astonishing reversal of fortune was due to Lloyd George himself? In what sense was he, as David French says, "*the* indispensable man necessary to win the war"?


Lloyd George knew that military strategy was intimately connected with the morale of the troops: on the front lines with British soldiers in a trench near Fricourt, France, 1916

French is a penetrating analyst and judicious in his assessments. He is by no means blind to Lloyd George's faults and does not oversimplify the merits of his Government. He doubts, for instance, that the small War Cabinet Lloyd George set up "enhanced the efficiency of central government to any great extent". He did, however, make a number of vital appointments, among which that of Sir Joseph Maclay as Shipping Controller was perhaps the most vital. Maclay was a strong advocate of the convoy system, as was the Secretary of the War Cabinet, Sir Maurice Hankey. Lloyd George was not immediately converted to the idea, but once he was the results were decisive. Without accepting the too dramatic story that he imposed the system outright when he visited the Admiralty on April 30, 1917, French considers that the Admiralty would have taken even longer to agree to it "without the Prime Minister's overt pressure".

However, he insists that convoys and the Government's shipbuilding programme, though important, did less to avert defeat than the policy of reducing imports and concentrating shipping on the shortest routes, particularly the Atlantic. Either way, Lloyd George's measures certainly saved the country and with it the Allied cause.

Above all, French argues that Lloyd George "saw more clearly than any other British policymaker the intimate connection between strategy and national morale". Hence his desire for relatively cheap success in the Levant (which he achieved), and his reluctance to commit the British Army to any further grandiose offensives in the West. Unfortunately his mistaken support for the French General Nivelle at the beginning of 1917, and his bungled attempt to put Haig under Nivelle, deprived him of moral authority, and to some extent of self-confidence, in dealing with Haig later that year. French takes this and other factors fully into account in seeking to explain Lloyd George's failure to prevent one of the war's most ghastly attritional struggles, the third Battle of Ypres. He is convincing on Lloyd George's reasons for allowing the battle to be launched, but why he did not at least try to stop it before its terrible last phase, at Passchendaele, is never adequately explained.

It was quite right, in French's view, that British manpower was conserved during the ensuing winter. He supports Lloyd George on that issue, and does not blame him for the initial success of the German offensive in the spring of 1918. When victory for the Allies followed between August and November, it took everybody by surprise, soldiers and civilians alike. Lloyd George's first instinct was to carry the war into Germany and make sure that the victory was unmistakable. "If peace were made now," he said presciently on October 13, "in 20 years' time the Germans would say what Carthage had said about the First Punic War . . . that by better preparation and organisation they would be able to bring about victory next time." But the supposed cost of prolonging the war, together with other factors, resulted in what French sees as a premature armistice. This, rather than Versailles, may have been what caused all the sacrifice of the Great War to be wasted.

French's valuable work deserves a wider readership than it is likely to have. Produced at a deterrent price, it is also presented in a severely academic mode, with references cluttering almost every page. But no one with a serious interest in the subject can afford to miss it.

Poetry that order breeds

Clive Wilmer

ROY FULLER
Writer and Society
By Neil Powell
Carcanet, £25

In one of his most memorable poems, Roy Fuller reflects on a photograph of the elderly Brahms perusing a score of Wagner's. The composer's equanimity appears unshaken. And yet, Fuller wonders, "how can he not be falling back aghast/ At the chromatic spectrum of decay,/ Starting to destroy already/ His classical universe?"

Fuller, like Brahms, was a man who needed order. Tidy-minded and fastidious in his dress, he lived in a suburban bungalow and worked for most of his life as a building society solicitor. The American poet Wallace Stevens — another of Fuller's heroes and himself a man of affairs — famously wrote of the artist's "rage for order". Those who have read Fuller at any length may be forgiven for thinking that, except at his rare best, he had order all right but was somewhat short on rage. A preoccupation with the quotidian *can* be merely mundane. Deflate the mighty line and you may have nothing to show for it but flatness.

These impressions have been revived by the appearance — only four years after the poet's death — of this critical biography. It says much for the author that, if he cannot remove such reservations, he does much to modify them and much to increase one's sympathy for Fuller. He compels attention to poems that might be overlooked; and his re-evaluation of Fuller's 11 novels persuades me that these have been unjustly neglected. Acute and judicious, he is as unafraid of severity as of enthusiasm and has an unfailing eye for the telling detail.

The book belongs, in short, to a threatened species: intelligent non-academic criticism. As such, it exemplifies the best of the values Fuller himself championed. Though he moved in the course of his life from wild Left to respectable Centre, Fuller was consistent in defending what Powell calls "a culturally enabling socialism": a belief in the democratisation and preservation of high culture. In his last years he accepted the responsibility of making this case in public, first as Oxford Professor of Poetry, and then when his orderly skills were called upon by public bodies such as the Poetry Book Society, the BBC and the Arts Council.

Powell succeeds in making this last phase as absorbing as anything in Fuller's life — as his wartime experience in East Africa or his dotty northern childhood, spent drifting with a widowed mother between seaside hotels. As biography, the book works best when a larger glimpse of society is included. Where more intimate relationships are concerned, there are odd lacunae. One would like to know more about Fuller's family. His wife, in particular, is never described and we are not even told exactly how he met her. But it *is* a relief to read a new biography that has no need for sensational revelations. Fuller, always a reticent man, would have been pleased.

THE HISTORY OF THE TIMES

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Augusta's paradise preserved for all

Patricia Morison

KEW
The History of the
Royal Botanic Gardens
By Ray Desmond
Harvill, £25

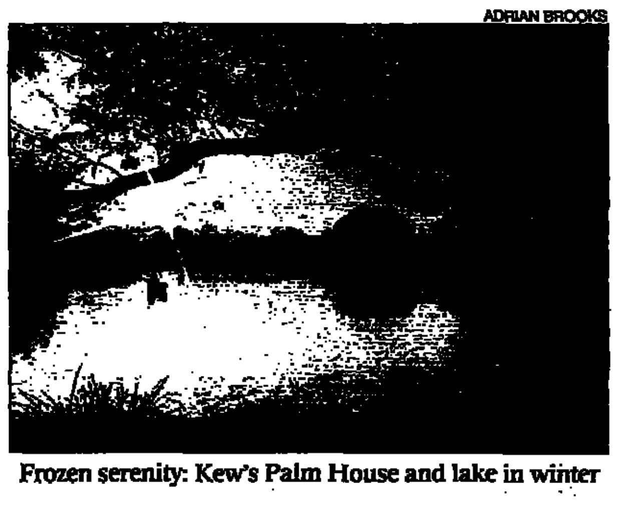
THERE are botanical gardens older and more beautiful than the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. And yet Kew beside the Thames, shattered by the planes winging in and out of Heathrow, enjoys a special reputation. Partly it is admired as a scientific institution established two centuries ago by the admirable Sir Joseph Banks for the study of the world's flora. But Kew also enjoys the peculiar status of a national institution, a place people care about without necessarily knowing why.

A definitive history of the Royal Botanic Gardens is sure to find eager readers. Desmond's account is first-class, packed with detail yet clear and written with the sober authority of a former librarian of Kew. Particularly enjoyable are the chapters describing the gardens' early 18th-century origins as a colony for royal German immigrants, Queen Caroline, her reviled heir Prince Frederick, and his wife, Princess Augusta. Undeterred by the dead flat, sandy banks of the Thames, they hired Sir William Chambers and "Capability" Brown to make gardens on two contiguous rural estates, out of which by slow stages were formed the public gardens of today.

Kew as a place to see exotic plants dates to 1758, after Prince Frederick was killed by a cricket ball. After his death, Augusta and her fascinating friend Lord Bute united to make a botanic garden for "all the known plants on earth". Ah, the confidence of the age! Even now, Kew grows only 10 per cent of the world's known flora. Happily, it still has a ginkgo planted by Princess Augusta, and Chambers's outrageous Pagoda, minus its glittering dragon finials — could this be another use for National Lottery money? In the last war, the RAF cut holes in every floor and dropped model bombs through, to get a 100-foot vertical drop.

Kew's toiling gardeners hardly feature in the book, the focus instead being on the great directors, Banks, William and Joseph Hooker and, in the 1890s, the autocratic Thistleton-Dyer who finally drove the gardeners to revolt. These directors needed to be fighters because the Royal Botanic Gardens led such a shaky existence and twice in the last century would have foundered, save for directorial obduracy. Kew's critics were legion and included scientists angered by its dog-in-the-manger attitude to plants, Treasury officials, and the ambitions of the British Museum and Royal Horticultural Society. Journalists sniped that Kew's floral beds were too gaudy, or not gaudy enough.

ADRIAN BROOKS


Frozen serenity: Kew's Palm House and lake in winter

Men of science and morality, Kew's directors generally viewed the public as the enemy. What had the higher realms of botany to do with nursemaids pushing perambulators? In Kew's woods and ditches, the poor got up to worse things than children's games. Thistleton-Dyer was plagued by a Mrs Wheatstone who ran a brothel beside the herbarium, then a tea-shop at Kew Palace lodge. Even in Princess Augusta's time, the public were allowed free into the Botanic collection, if respectably dressed (no coloured neckties). But access to the whole gardens, opening hours, and where the gates should be, were all hotly disputed. Residents held Indignation Meetings to demand Thistleton-Dyer remove the boundary wall. The director actually rebuilt it higher, claiming the need to stop gardeners legging it across to the public houses.

A PARTICULARLY interesting part of the book is devoted to Kew's role as mother garden for the Empire, her botanists profoundly changing the agricultural economies of large tracts of the globe. At the end the book tails off somewhat, despite the bright tally of improvements, expansion, Kew's first television commercial in 1994, and the inevitable mission statement.

An appendix reveals some ominous figures. The Edwardian era was a golden time for Kew Gardens. In 1915, there were more than four million visitors. Then admission charges were introduced, figures dropped dramatically and have in most years been around one million. Recently, numbers have dipped considerably below, so despite its hallowed reputation, Kew does not seem particularly popular. Is it the cost, an entry charge of £4 — an increase of 800 per cent since 1987? Or does the explanation lie deeper? One is left wondering if in a century's time, Princess Augusta's dream will have lost the power to lure people from their own exotic gardens and conservatories to the palm houses and rockeries beside the Thames.

Wind, rain and words

The story is as old as man, and man is old on Orkney. Four thousand years ago the megalith-raisers left their mark there; the *Orkneyinga Saga* survives, a vessel for the tales of Norse blood-feuds. All had their storytellers, and now Orkney has George Mackay Brown.

His is a difficult task, one made the harder by what he calls the "basilisk stare of newsprint, radio, television". Yet, for more than 40 years he has persevered, writing still by hand, publishing steadily if sometimes unevenly plays and novels, stories, poems. Epitomising Kant's dictum that the greatest journey a man can make is the journey inside his own head, Mackay Brown has left Orkney only once since the 1950s, when he studied under Edwin Muir in Edinburgh. This collection of 18 short stories written over the last 20 years shows that it is not dull to have Orkney in the blood; it is to have the elemental.

Ross Leckie

WINTER TALES
By George Mackay Brown
John Murray, £15.99

Just as the islands of which he sometimes seems a rocky outcrop have no trees, Mackay Brown's stories lack as much as they contain. There is almost no emotion before Mackay Brown's chthonian deities. There is only sea and wind and life and death and earth. These stories are threnodies and elegies — for many things that were, and might have been, and some that might yet be.

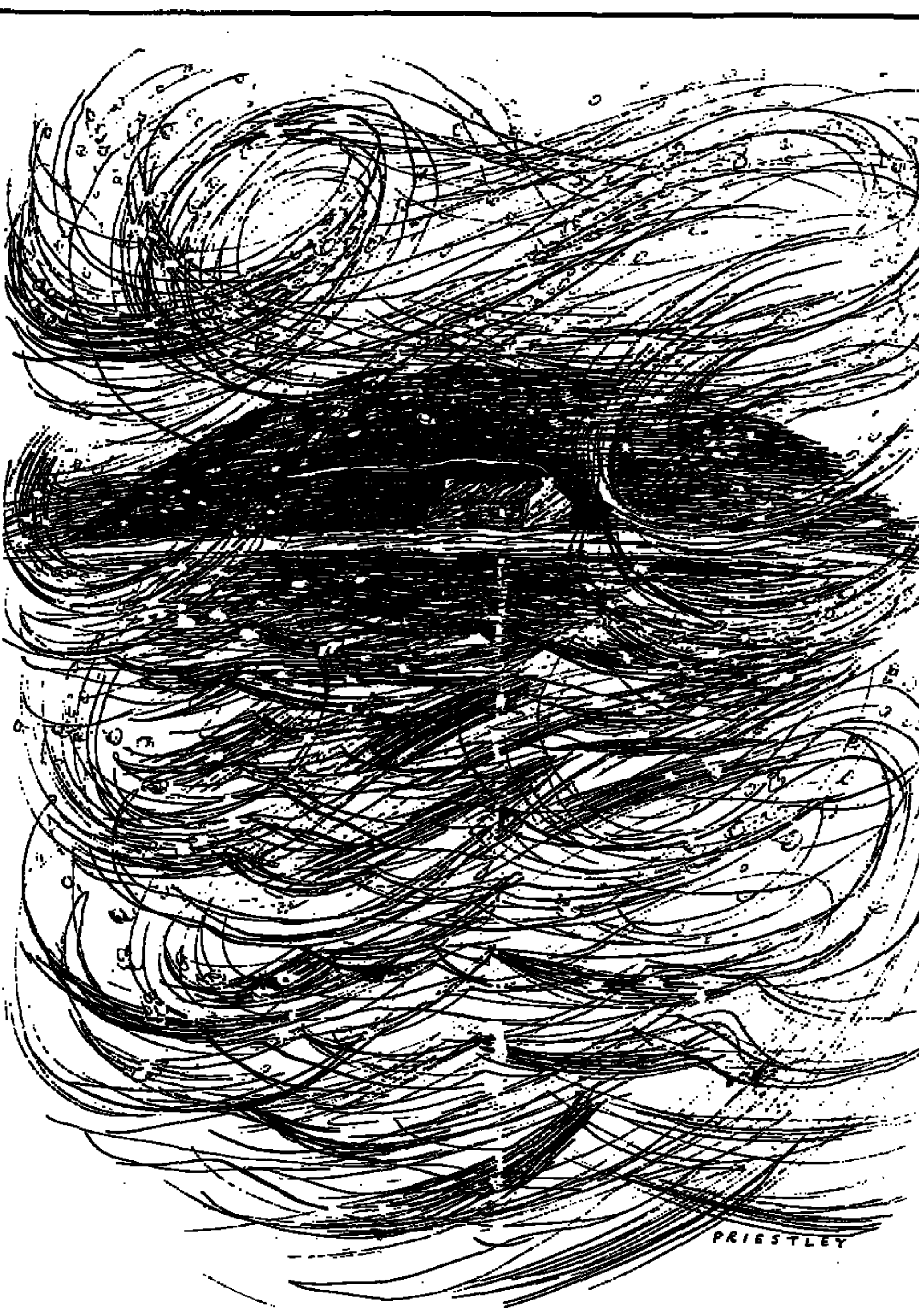
The prose reflects these themes. Though finely wrought, there is about it a deliberate and beguiling unease. It is clipped and stripped, lapidary, heavily end-stopped. But then it is suddenly epic, resonating the oral tradition that these stories manage to make quite their own. We have the "star-thronged wheel of darkness", a "deep-cargoed ship", the Homeric "winged word". Then lavishly Mackay Brown puts his ears back and the dark powers he would master sing: "That year the elements of sun and rain and wind were so exquisitely measured and scattered upon the furrows that the little black-ploughed fields sown with barley and oats had shallow pools of green soon and then the sloping rectangles were all green, all crammed with murmurings and whisperings in the wayward wind..."

But man in these stories is a cipher, and a generation but a "slow ponderous wave of time". A consistent theme is eventual light in the darkness. At its best, as in *Ikey*, this is moving. At its worst, as in *The Architect* or *The Road to Emmaus*, it becomes only a rather laboured manifestation of a convert's own Catholicism. We miss the tragedy of many men's preferences for the dark. Differently and secularly handled, it can be compelling. *The Sons of Upland Farm* is almost unbearably painful before a revelation, a story stark then startling in its profundity.

Yet ciphers these characters remain. Only in the poetry of R. S. Thomas is such bleakness elsewhere to be found. People are vanity. When they are not indigenous islanders, they are puppets before Mackay Brown's ineluctable and atavistic gods.

So, in *The Woodcarver*, is the laird of the island no more than a symbol for "a progressive young man newly out of Cambridge"; in *Ikey* you think that Dr Aeneas Giles Logan has escaped stereotype — until, inevitably, he too contributes to Mackay Brown's relentless whole: "We all come out of wind, water, stone, fire," he says. "We get shaken back into them in the end."

This is dangerous ground. If these stories are to succeed, they must rise from the parochial and touch the universal. Nova Scotia, not Orkney, is Alasdair MacLeod's point of departure in his collection of stories, *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*, that now defines this genre. Mackay Brown may fall short of that mark, but he brings us very, very close. In Sophocles' *Ajax*, a play of which Mackay Brown's Dr Logan would approve, Ajax says: "I see that we are, all of us, mere shadows, phantoms of nothing." With *Winter Tales*, Mackay Brown has transcended Orkney, and placed a boulder on that larger, awesome cairn.



Derwent May on the witty stories of Julian Barnes

More than just Sleeve notes

There is a great deal of pleasure to be had from this first collection of short stories by Julian Barnes. But the blurb is slightly misleading. "No one has a better perspective to see things from both sides of the Channel than Barnes," it says.

But I remember the opening paragraph of Barnes's article on the Channel Tunnel, in his volume of *Letters from London* written for *The New Yorker*. There he describes how Flaubert's character Bouvard, on learning that an earthquake might cause Britain and France to tumble into each other, runs away in terror — not of the cataclysm, but of the idea of the British coming nearer. These ten stories are about the British in France — a view from one side. The French, like Bouvard, seem mostly to have fled from them.

They are also stories of a very distinct character. They range from the 17th to the 21st century, defining moments when typical British folk had (or may be expected to have) a presence in France. There is very little individual emotion or drama in them. They delicately, and often wittily, re-create with all its flavour a passage of social history.

The first story, *Interference*, is about a vain, bad-tempered English composer who has isolated himself in a French village in the early 1930s. Art, he believes, justifies him in total egoism. He has alienated all the villagers, yet has to persuade them to turn off their various electrical machines to prevent interference when he wants to hear his works being broadcast on the BBC from London. There are numerous perfect period touches, such as his description of the conductor Adrian Boult as his "young champion". He dies one afternoon when his last work is being performed, and his wife has failed to alert the baker and butcher and farmers in time for them to switch off.

The whole story turns deftly and elegantly on this witty idea, yet the composer hardly seems an individual. He is like an intricate shell, perfectly reflecting a stage in its inhabitant's evolution, but without the inhabitant inside.

CROSS CHANNEL
By Julian Barnes
Jonathan Cape, £13.99

Other stories have similar strengths and weakness. *Experiment* is about the narrator's Uncle Freddy, a traveller for genuine wax polish who went to France for a motor rally in 1928 and got caught up with the Surrealists. This was because he said in a bar that he travelled in "*Cire réaliste*" — or, perhaps, when asked why he was there, said "*Je suis, sire, rallyiste*". Or maybe he even said, talking of the white wine he was drinking, "*Je suis sur Reuillys*". A brilliant trio of puns — quite surrealist themselves — but the subsequent story of how his new friends tested out whether he could distinguish blindfold between an Englishwoman and a Frenchwoman is just an ingenious piece of reconstruction of that milieu.

Barnes: resonant fragments

One of the very best stories is *Hermitage*, about two English women friends in the 1890s who buy a run-down château and vineyard in the Médoc. Their relationship, with its Victorian mixture of frankness and primness, is touchingly sketched, but once again the real interest lies in the account of the place and the time — the grape varieties being used, the varied reactions to the phylloxera menace, the other grape diseases (on which we get an entertaining but encyclopaedic paragraph). The descriptions are particularly good in this story — the vineyards running across the land "like green corduroy", a blister "like a broad bean" — but I could not help wondering if it was not my own visits to the Médoc that made the story especially enjoyable for me, just as *Brambilla*, about the Tour de France, might especially please cyclists with its anecdotes.

There is only one story here that really grips by its tension and anguish — *Dragons*, which is about the persecution of the Protestants in the south of France 350 years ago, with an exiled Irish soldier among the savage persecutors.

In the last story, an ageing author is travelling to France by Eurostar early in the next century. This — we are led to suppose — is an oblique self-portrait by Barnes. He is a rather Kingsley Amis-like character here (though Amis would never have gone to France), testily but self-mockingly fussing about the correct use of language. He hints at the way in which characters he meets on the train turn into characters in his stories, and offers a profession of faith: he is obsessed, he says, with the recalling of "distant truths", and his art is dedicated to that recall by means of the "resonant fragment".

The best of all the stories here, *Evermore*, shares that preoccupation with remembering. A woman has spent her life going to France again and again, visiting the sites of First World War battles, after her brother was killed in the trenches. Barnes goes deeply into her feelings — her dislike of the wording on the memorials, the way her grief changes over time, her fears of the war being obliterated in mankind's memory.

Yet even here, the emotion is in danger of being swamped by the historical facts. The lengthy accounts of the battlefields and graveyards could practically serve as a guide-book for visitors (and would give the famous *New Yorker* fact-checkers a terrible time). If his old friend Martin Amis had not already used the title *The Information* for his latest novel, it would have been a perfectly appropriate one for Julian Barnes's new book.

The bitter sound of truth

THOMAS BERNHARD loathed Austria. Contempt for his compatriots and disgust at the State they inhabited were passions that sustained him throughout his life, and seemingly beyond. When he died in 1989, he left a will forbidding publication or performance of his works in his native land, and rejecting in advance any efforts the Austrian republic might make at posthumous rapprochement with one of its most eminent opponents.

There was more to this, of course, than simple loathing. There may once have been an Austria Bernhard loved, but the Austria he lived in had destroyed it. From the mid-1950s he laid bare that destruction in novels, short stories, poems, polemics and plays. In the bleak comedy of *Extinction* — his last novel, published in German in 1986 and now deftly rendered into English by David McLintock — Bernhard's reckoning with Austria finds one of its most compelling forms.

There is autobiography in all of Bernhard's fiction, just as there is fiction in his autobiographical works. Real names are put to creative use. Living people are thinly disguised (too thinly, Bernhard's publishers and their lawyers discovered more than once). Identifiable places and buildings become symbols, the monumental repositories where history takes shape.

And above all, there is in Bernhard's protagonists something of Bernhard himself: sickly, obsessive, detached; wordily introspective to the point almost of madness; consumed by violent hatreds. Franz-Josef Murau, narrator of *Extinction*, is typical. Superfluous younger son of wealthy parents, he resides in Rome, an unorthodox teacher of German literature. The whole of his existence, he tells his sole pupil, Gambetti, has been nothing more than "a struggle to throw off the disease of Austrian mindlessness".

Ian Brunskill

EXTINCTION
By Thomas Bernhard
Quartet, £16

For Murau, as for Bernhard, Austria is and always will be an "essentially National Socialist and Catholic nation" — the terms are inseparable and almost interchangeable. The country's tainted past and corrupt present are concentrated in the buildings and occupants of the Murau family estate at Wolfsegg. (Schloss Wolfsegg — though not this Schloss Wolfsegg — exists: near Bernhard's several homes in Upper Austria, it recurs in his work from the early 1960s.)

Murau wants nothing of Wolfsegg and what it represents, but he gets it all regardless. A car crash kills his father, mother and elder brother, forcing him to confront his poisoned inheritance. He does so in a moving, maddening, unparagraphed monologue that interweaves the threads of his troubled life: Wolfsegg and Rome, architecture and history, politics and poetry, philosophy and art.

Almost inadvertently, from the depths of his self-absorption, Murau conjures a detailed world and a vivid supporting cast — a weak father and monstrous mother; two unloved, unlovely sisters; cosmopolitan Uncle Georg; huntsmen and gardeners; the sinister archbishop Spadolini; the poet Maria (who owes something to Ingeborg Bachmann); a portly, vulgar maker of wine-corks from Freiburg. All, like Murau himself, are viewed with cruel detachment — and who knows how much cruel distortion?

MURAU'S aim, and Bernhard's, is to come to terms with what has made him what he is, and to destroy it. Murau, like Bernhard, will call his defining, definitive written account *Extinction*, "because in it I intend to extinguish everything: everything I record will be extinguished". It is a grim and grotesque endeavour, accomplished with savage panache.

Working the graveyard shift

Lois Rathbone

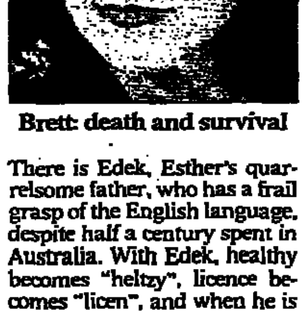
JUST LIKE THAT
By Lily Brett
André Deutsch, £15.99

Since Evelyn Waugh first took a caustic look at the world of American funeral parlours in *The Loved One*, novelists have regarded the death business as a fit subject for comedy. Not many pull it off as well as Lily Brett. Her heroine, Esther Zepler, is the daughter of two Polish survivors of Auschwitz. Brought up in Australia, but now resettled in New York with her own family, Esther makes her living as a freelance writer of obituaries. Her earnings pass straight through her hands into those of the obligatory New York shrink.

Unsurpringly, considering her ghoulish profession, she has a morbid fascination with death. Every day an editor's phone call informs her of another potential candidate for the mortician's slab, and she sets to work on an advance obituary notice for the "morgue". Many hours are spent at memorial services, and in comforting grieving widows. For light reading, she chooses books on the Holocaust or suicide, and when a friend makes a passing reference to Jayne Mansfield, Esther recalls how the actress died, decapitated in a car crash: "It was a pretty dramatic way to go."

The tone, though, is one of relentless comedy and the story rattles along, with good doses of humour of the Woody Allen variety. Food and fornication are the two things which take Esther's mind off work, and there are some graphic descriptions of both. A green salad in a hip, downtown restaurant is likely to be composed of oak leaves, dandelions and nasturtiums: "Melbourne was overrun with nasturtiums and dandelion leaves, and we're paying ten bucks a plate for them in Manhattan."

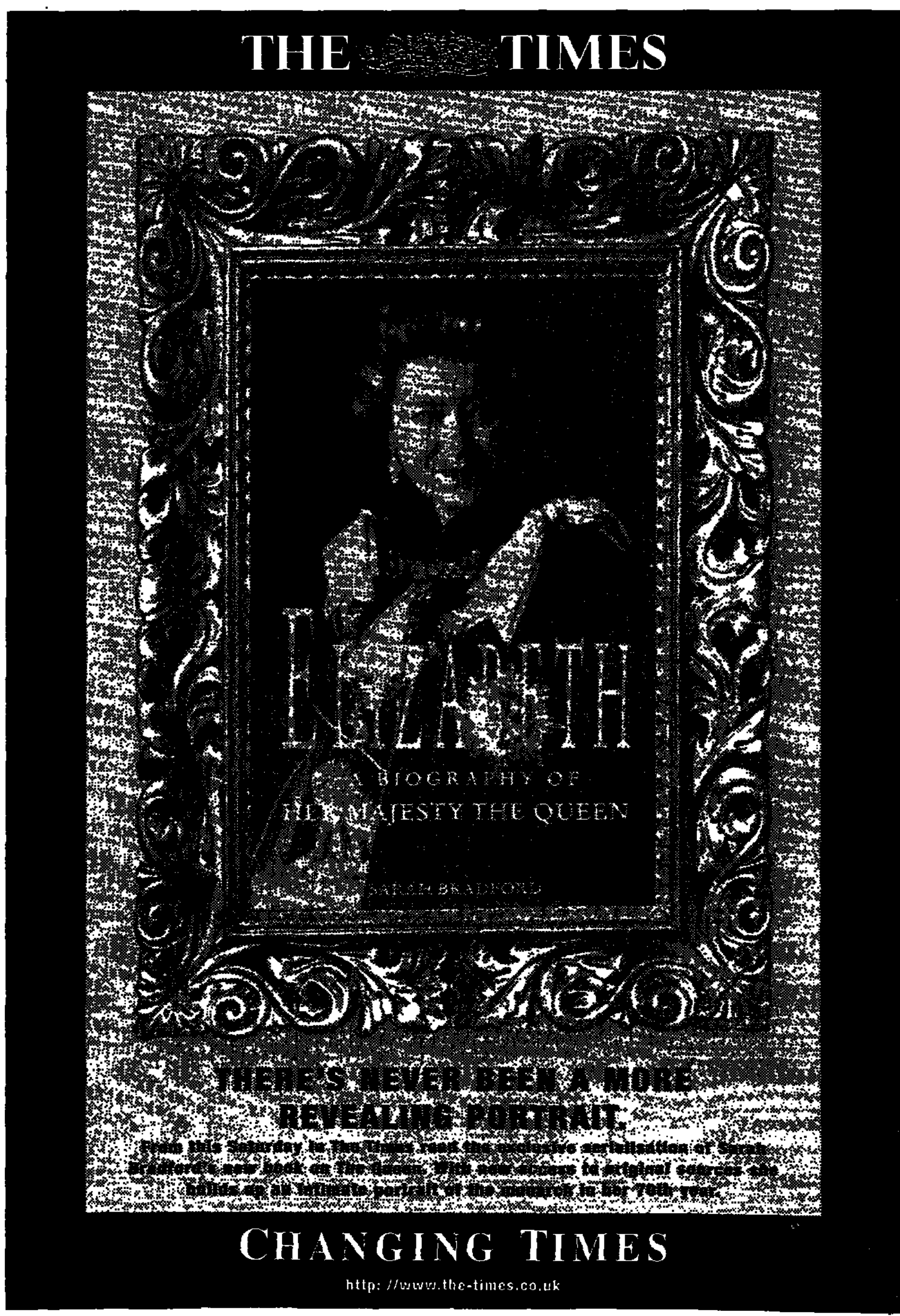
Brett invents a fine supporting cast of family and friends.


Brett: death and survival

There is Edek, Esther's quarrelsome father, who has a frail grasp of the English language, despite half a century spent in Australia. With Edek, healthy becomes "heltzy", licence becomes "licen", and when he is overcharged by the local garage, he muses philosophically: "It's a highway, so they robbed it." Esther's best friend is Sonia Kaufman, a high-powered lawyer, pregnant with fraternal twins, of which one, both or neither may conceivably be the offspring of her lover not her husband. She is a woman of terrifying verbal indiscretion, given to discussing vaginas and haemorrhoids in the middle of crowded restaurants. And there is Sean, Esther's husband. Considering the parallels between the author's life and that of her heroine, it comes as no surprise that Sean follows the same profession as Brett's own husband, David Rankin, an Australian painter. Sean is portrayed with such affection that the whole novel seems to have been intended as a love letter to the ideal husband.

My only quibble is with the title. Perhaps in Australia, where the novel was first published, the phrase "just like that" has no connotations; but for British readers, an unwanted image of Tommy Cooper springs to mind each time one contemplates the dustjacket.

Lois Rathbone is on the obituaries staff of The Times.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How to avoid foreign jails

THE Foreign Office has come up with an idea which, when fully developed, could benefit every holidaymaker and might preserve the liberty and even the lives of a few.

Consular departments around the world are constantly being asked to solve the problems of holidaymakers who get into trouble through ignorance of the country they are visiting.

The idea is to produce a video outlining what to do and what not to do, what precautions to take and what to expect on arrival. Eventually it may be possible to show a different video in-flight for each destination. The first experimental video, concentrating on the dangers of drug-taking, could be made specifically for tourists to Thailand.

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The Foreign Office already issues blunt warnings about the dangers of becoming implicated in the drugs trade, even innocently, in Thailand. At least 21 Britons are in jail on drugs charges in the country, many more have been fined or deported and others are awaiting trial.

The Thai authorities are themselves determined to clamp down on drugs and police keep close watch on the crowds of backpackers in resorts and on off-shore islands.

"If we just managed to make one person think again, or opened the eyes of someone to the potential dangers, it would all be worthwhile," said an insider at the FO.

So far, there has been little response from the airlines, or from the tour operators, who have hinted that it might upset their passengers to be given such a stark warning at the start of their holidays.

A video produced by a car hire company which warns of the potential dangers of driving through Florida is now being shown on Britannia Airways flights. But it was so watered down after tour operators complained that it was "alarmist", that it is now little more than a "how to drive in the US" guide.

The Foreign Office issues regular advisory notes about countries in which travellers might expect to find unusual problems, either involving internal strife, crime or natural disasters. These are circulated to travel agents and tour operators but are too rarely seen by the customers.

How much better if these were given a professional polish by a film company and then shown on every screen during the flight. They are much more likely to be of use than the liferaft under your seat and would show that the airlines and the tour operators do have some concern about the dangers which might confront their clients.

For once the FO has got it absolutely right and the sooner its idea is put into practice the better.

Children running across the road at Messonghi Beach, Corfu, were in the care of Airtours, claims *Holiday Which?*

Children's club dangers

By Harvey Elliott

MANY children's clubs in Mediterranean resorts are potentially dangerous, badly run and ill-equipped, according to a new report by *Holiday Which?*

Some children are given little to do while crammed into bars in which the exits have been blocked. Others can run unsupervised across busy roads, says the Consumers' Association magazine.

A quarter of the 36 clubs inspected last summer in Majorca, the Algarve and Corfu, had safety problems, they claim.

"Our investigation, with the help of a childcare expert reveals a dismal picture of child-minding services presented as fun-packed clubs," they say. "Most disturbing, in two cases there were serious safety problems: an overcrowded Majorcan bar with blocked fire exits was used for a children's 'pirate retreat' and another Majorcan bar used for a children's disco had sheer drops from wide-open first-floor windows."

At Messonghi Beach in Corfu, clubs run by Airtours, Sunworld, Cosmos and First Choice were held on a pavement next to a service road and *Holiday Which?* claim that they saw children from the Airtours club dash across the road in front of moving traffic.

The magazine's criticism — which included a description of one widely-used club as having "all the charm and personality of a bomb shelter" — appeared to have shocked most tour operators and forced them to review the facilities on offer.

"We will immediately go back to the clubs which have been criticised to ensure they are never used again if what the magazine's inspectors found was typical," said Len Mooney, the Overseas Product Director of Sunworld.

"We were very concerned about the criticism made of our clubs as they are very important to us," said a spokesman for First Choice. "We are going back to the area and investigating in detail."

Airtours, too, said that they would drop any children's clubs which did not come up to scratch.

Thomson, however, said that the findings were at odds with their own consumer research. "Our customers clearly don't share the CA's views, but we are investigating in-depth the issues which were raised in the report," said a spokeswoman.

EC plans cheap trips for oldies

BRITISH pensioners could soon be eligible for cut-price, heavily subsidised holidays throughout Europe. *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Details of the scheme — known as "social tourism" — are being examined by a small EC working party in Brussels and will be put to European tourism ministers next month.

The plans are being spearheaded by Spain, which has run Inserso, a similar scheme, for ten years and which has enabled three million pensioners to take cheap holidays.

Now an audit by the accountants Price Waterhouse has shown that the scheme helps to keep open hotels which would otherwise be closed during the winter, keeps old people fitter, and at the same time saves Spain millions of pesetas in social security and unemployment benefits.

Britain is so far refusing to back the proposal, but the Labour Party is anxious to examine it further. "It is a very exciting idea and one which should be considered both in Britain and Europe as a whole," said Nigel Griffiths, Labour's tourism spokesman.

Under the existing Inserso scheme, now being adopted by Portugal and soon to be taken up independently by other European states, elderly people are entitled to massive discounts on holidays taken outside the main holiday season.

The state pays a total of £42 million towards the holidays, an average of £90 per pensioner. Each holidaymaker then pays up to £120 for an all-inclusive week in a hotel.

Eduardo Gamero, the director general of tourism for the Balearic Islands said: "There are 60 million people over the age of 60 in the Community, many of whom are below the poverty line and never take a holiday. There are also hundreds of hotels which are closed during the off-peak season. This scheme not only gives pensioners a chance to enjoy a break but, if it were generally accepted, would help the tourism industry throughout Europe."

Roger de Haan, the chairman of Saga Holidays, the British tour operator which has virtually cornered the "grey" market, is enthusiastic about the idea. "Forty per cent of people over the age of 60 now never travel and if there was some means of targeting the less well-off it would improve the quality of life of the elderly."

A European-wide conference aimed at producing a detailed proposal for ministers to consider concluded that: "The European Union cannot turn its back on this opportunity to create employment without requiring additional funding that also considerably improves the wellbeing of the elderly population."

Britain remains officially sceptical of the scheme, however, because it claims it is designed mainly to benefit Mediterranean countries with a natural tourism infrastructure.

"I can see how thousands of British pensioners would want to flock to Spanish beaches, but I can't see the Spanish wanting to come to our seaside in February," said one official.

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EC plans cheap trips for oldies

Eurostar cuts Paris fare to £69

By Jonathan Prynn

THE price of a return Eurostar rail ticket to Paris tumbled to £69 this week to mark the start of high-speed train services from Ashford International station in Kent.

The new fare, which is available to passengers on the day of travel, brings the cost of journeys to Paris in line with tickets on the less popular Brussels route. Paris had previously been £7 more expensive than the Belgian capital at £76. The only requirement is that passengers stay at least one Saturday night or three other nights in Paris. The day return price remains at £95.

The new fare, which is almost certain to be followed by further reductions this year as competition with the airlines intensifies, came the day after the start of Eurostar services from Ashford. The new 1996 Eurostar timetable shows nine departures a day from the Kent terminal, five to Paris and four to Brussels, with seven inbound services from the Continent.

The new timetable brings the centre of the French capital within a two-hour train ride for passenger starting their journeys in Ashford with trips to Brussels taking two and a quarter hours. Prices are the same as for departures from London.

The timetable also features a new early morning departure for Paris aimed at the business market. It leaves Waterloo International at 6.19am, calls at Ashford an hour later and arrives in Paris Gard du Nord at 10.24am. It is aimed at countering criticism from British business executives that Eurostar could not deliver them to Paris in time for morning meetings.

European Passenger Services (EPS), the operator of Eurostar, is in the vanguard of the movement to bring British clocks in line with the Continent, partly because its early morning services would become far more competitive with the airlines (see below).

The opening of Ashford marks the start of a crucial year for Eurostar. The next 12 months will see the future ownership of EPS decided by the Government and the start of through trains to the provinces of Britain.

Direct services from Paris and Brussels to Birmingham and Manchester and Glasgow on the West Coast main line and to Edinburgh on the East Coast main line are expected to commence this summer. Testing of the Eurostar trains that will be used for these services has already started, although the timetable has been set back by the recent strikes in France.

However, the schedule for the introduction of overnight services from London and the regions to France, Belgium, Germany and Holland, has been more seriously delayed because the sleeper trains are now not expected to be delivered by Metro Cammell, their manufacturer, in time for the original planned starting date later this year.

Direct rail journeys from London to Disneyland Paris could be running by summer

Disney launches Waterloo link

By David Churchill

EURO DISNEY is planning to run a direct Eurostar rail service from Waterloo to its French theme park, now known as Disneyland Paris.

The service, using special trains featuring Disney characters, is part of a major promotional push by the theme park, including a new television campaign which starts next month.

Last week the company opened its first dedicated UK reservations office. "We expect calls to reach 5,000 a day once the television advertising starts," says Mr William Jones, the managing director for Disneyland Paris in London.

Negotiations to operate the rail link are still taking place with Eurostar, but Disney is confident that it will be able to start selling rail packages after Easter, with the service likely to start midsummer.

At present, Disney-bound passengers on the Brussels Eurostar have to change at Lille to catch a high-speed TGV train to the theme park, so the new direct link will cut the journey time significantly. Euro Disney expects to have sufficient demand to charter the trains from Eurostar, enabling it to "customise" each service with Disney characters. The frequency and cost of the service has yet to be finalised.

Mr Jones is optimistic that the theme park will continue to make the progress of last year when the number of visitors rose 25 per cent to 10.7 million. This was helped by admission price cuts and the opening of the Space Mountain rollercoaster ride. He reports that the current promotional offer, which enables children to travel and stay free when accompanied by adults, has meant weekend bookings from the UK until Easter are almost full.

Major developments this year will focus on the Festival Disney entertainment complex rather than the theme park itself. Festival Disney is due to open a Planet Hollywood restaurant later this year, along with an eight-screen cinema. A new show to alternate with the popular Buffalo Bill dinner attraction is also being considered. This year's Disney animated film, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, will also be premiered in Paris.

But while Euro Disney has apparently shrugged off its early problems, a report into European theme parks suggests that many smaller continental parks suffered last year from the impact of the long, hot summer.

William Richards, director of the travel consultancy Tourism Research and Marketing which has just published its sixth annual report on international theme parks*, says: "While the overall number of theme park visitors rose in Europe last year because of the opening of Port Aventura in Spain — it attracted some 2.7 million visitors — the year-on-year trading for a number of parks, especially in the Benelux countries, was down because the hot weather kept people away."

Many UK theme and leisure parks reportedly faced similar problems, especially those based near seaside resorts or with a significant number of indoor attractions.

* International Theme Parks *is available from 115, Hartington Rd, London SW8 2HB. Price £85*

Ferries declare war

By Steve Keenan

CUSTOMERS are the biggest winners as rail and ferry operators slash prices in the battle for business on routes across the English Channel, the Irish Sea and the North Sea.

Ferry companies' profits slumped in 1995 after the opening of the Channel Tunnel despite an increase of 7 per cent in passenger traffic — 13.5 million return journeys were made on 58,000 Channel crossings

Eurostar applied more pressure this week by cutting its cheapest fare. (The cheapest British Airways World Offer fare is £66.60.) And Le Shuttle has extended a 20 per cent discount offer for travel up to 60 days in advance until March 31.

There is also competition from a new ferry operator, Sea France, on the Dover-Calais route. Brittany Ferries is offering 25 per cent off bookings made before January 31 for any journey this year. This reduces the price of the Portsmouth-Caen crossing in August for a car and up to eight passengers from £273 to £204.75.

Stena Line is offering a 20 per cent discount to Calais, Dieppe, Cherbourg and Hook of Holland for bookings made by January 31. Hoverspeed is cutting 60 per cent off its price for Dover-Calais for bookings made by February 28.

Stena is also offering a 20 per cent discount on the Fishguard-Rosslare route across the Irish Sea, forcing Irish Ferries to cut its return fare on the same run from £328 to £258 for bookings made by January 31.

North Sea Ferries has cut the cost of a cabin and car for four from £506 to £385 in peak season.

Two famous leisure attractions get a change of style

Activity drive by Butlin's

By Helen Conway

SIXTY years after opening its first holiday camp at Skegness, Butlin's is setting its sights on attracting a more upmarket clientele to its centres.

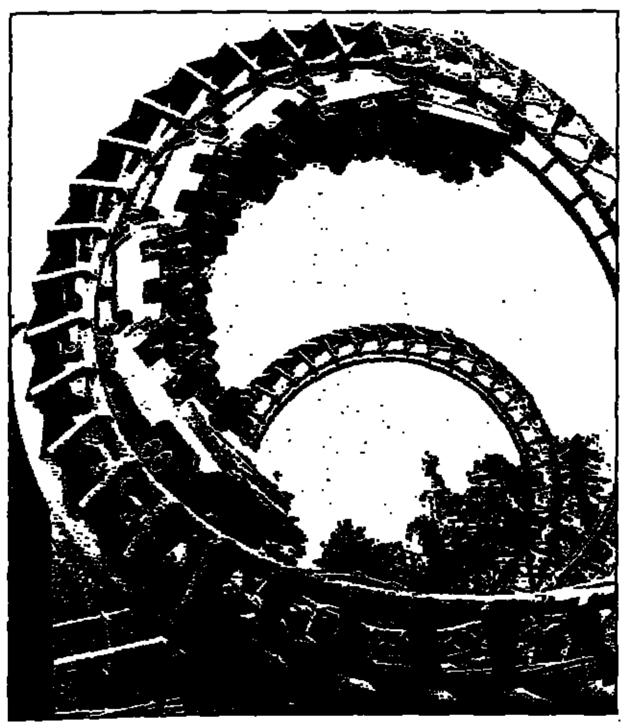
For this summer, the company has launched a new multiactivity programme called Leisure Pursuits, which plays down the Butlin's connection for fear it may prove a turn-off for some people.

A brochure has been produced featuring 12 different activities including abseiling, canoeing, orienteering and windsurfing, as well as more unusual activities like dragon boating and hovercrafting.

Accommodation for the whole programme is based at the five Butlin's holiday worlds in the UK: Somerwest World in Minehead, Southcoast World in Bognor Regis, Starcoast World in Pwllheli, Funcoast World in Skegness and Wonderwest World on the Scottish coast at Ayr.

However, while the traditional Butlin's holiday programme encourages holidaymakers to stay on-site and make full use of the subtropical waterworlds, funfairs and other leisure facilities, all the activities in Leisure Pursuits take place outside.

Holidaymakers can choose just to use the centre for sleeping and book the activities package with self-catering arrangements. Prices start at £74 per person for a three-night break with self-catering accommodation and £200 per person for a week's holiday, including 11 activities.



Alton Towers will soon have sponsored accommodation

Sweet-dreams hotel

A NEW hotel at Alton Towers will have rooms sponsored by chocolate and soft-drink manufacturers, offering unlimited supplies of their products, *Steve Keenan writes.*

Cadbury's is sponsoring a room with a chocolate dispenser and doors designed like chocolate bars, a TV set like a box of Roses and chairs replicating melted chocolate.

Another room is to be sponsored by Coca Cola, who will also supervise the decor. It is the first time private firms have sponsored rooms in a UK hotel, and follows the success of the Walt Disney Company in separately theming its six hotels at Disneyland Paris.

The rooms will cost around £200 for a family of six per night. The other 171 rooms in the themed hotel, to open on March 16, will cost families of four £100 a night. Each has a "secret" drawer for children to discover.

The £20 million hotel will also have a reception desk created from lost luggage and an old-fashioned gift shop. A plan to include a resident teddy bear in each room was shelved because the company feared huge losses.

Around 17 per cent of visitors to Alton Towers stay overnight. It is also hoping to attract themed business conferences. The park had 180,000 corporate visitors last year and will be able to host conferences for 180.

Airlines fight daylight Bill

By Harvey Elliott

HOLIDAY flight schedules could be thrown into chaos if Britain adopts "daylight extra" and moves to a common central European time, according to charter airlines.

Despite strong backing from most of the British tourist industry for a Private Member's Bill proposing the switch, charter airlines fear that it would lead either to a sharp increase in night flights or to British flights being crowded out of holiday airports at peak times.

Supporters of John Butterfill's British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, which is scheduled for a second reading on January 19, last night briefed MPs on potential benefits of an additional hour of daylight.

But airlines fear that not enough attention has been paid to resolving initial problems involved in the switch. Holidaymakers could face higher prices, confusion and even wholesale cancellations if it goes ahead, they say.

The problem revolves around take-off and landing slot times, which are negotiated internationally in Greenwich Mean Time. This means that a summer charter flight which leaves Gatwick, for example, at 0700 local time is using a slot negotiated for 0600 GMT. When the extra daylight hour is introduced, 0700 would become 0800 local. But the slot time would remain as 0600 GMT.

The airline would, therefore, have the option of either staying with the existing GMT slot and making the take off time 0800 local or keeping the 0700 local take off schedule and renegotiating the GMT slot to 0500. But this would bring forward the landing time at the destination airport by an hour and would create problems becasue many airports in the Mediterranean are already heavily congested.

If the airline kept the same GMT slot but left an hour later in local time, evening flights would also be an hour later and therefore impinge on the night flying curfew times.

"We would have no option but to have more quotas for night flights," says Bob Parker-Eaton, deputy managing director of Britain's biggest charter carrier, Britannia. "That would either upset the noise protesters or mean our cancelling our third rotation of the day. That would create problems which, we calculate, would cost Britannia alone £20 million a year through loss of aircraft utilisation.

The charter airlines are pressing for the date of the proposed extra hour — planned for October 1997 — to be delayed until airlines have been able to renegotiate slot times.

Meanwhile the rest of the tourism industry remains in favour of the changes.

"Although there might be some confusion at first the long-term advantages outweigh the short-term problems" says Richard Tobias of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association. He claims an extra hour of daylight would produce up to a billion pounds worth of additional revenue by allowing tourists more time to visit attractions, and that travel and communication with the rest of Europe would be easier.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

SKI holiday bargains and information on late bookings available from more than 20 tour operators are being collated by Connect France, which promises discounts of up to 40 per cent and £200 this month. Details: 0500 456645.

☐ A WEEK in Majorca for £99, leaving Cardiff Airport on Monday is available from Cosmos. A fortnight costs £40 more. Details: 0161-480 5799.

☐ MIDDLE EAST city breaks are being offered by Kuoni, including Cairo for three nights for £385 per person and Dubai for £485. Prices include scheduled flights and a local excursion. Details: 01306 744477.

☐ SAVINGS of £40 to £100 are available on holidays in Eilat, leaving Heathrow or Manchester on January 18 or 22, with Longwood Holidays. Details: 0181-551 4494.

☐ FLORIDA Magic is offering free child places on some holidays until February 4, providing each child is accompanied by two adults. They will pay from £339 per person for return flights, three nights at a Best Western hotel and four days c hire. Details: 0645 747757.

☐ SAVINGS of £100 p person are being offered The Imaginative Travel for its 19-day fully-escort China tour leaving Peking March 10. The all-inclus price will still be close £2,000 per person. Detai 0181-742 8612.

☐ LAS VEGAS can reached non-stop fro Gatwick from Monday wh Unijet launches its inaugur service. Combined with new flights are week-lo hotel holidays starting fr £299 per person. Detai 01444 459191.

HOTELS

TWO-FOR-ONE discount coupons at top New York attractions — including the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum — are included in a Best of New York package at the 1,400-room Grand Hyatt hotel near Grand Central station. Two people sharing a double room and staying at least two nights will pay $199 a night. The package includes a champagne Sunday brunch. Details: 0345 581666.

☐ EVEN though St Valentine's Day is midweek this year, Hilton National is offering "treat the one you love" weekend breaks immediately before and after February 14 at 25 of its UK hotels. Rates start at £59.50 a person a night and include champagne and a rose on arrival, dinner and a CD featuring favourite love songs. Details: 0345 581595.

☐ TRAVEL INN, the budget hotel chain owned by Whitbread, yesterday opened its 100th UK hotel on the waterfront at Salford Quays, Manchester. The 52-room hotel has a fixed rate of £35.50 a room a night. Next door is a Beefeater restaurant and pub. Details: 01582 414341.

☐ JAKE'S HOTEL on Jamaica's south coast has been voted the "best hotel under £100 a night" in the 1996 Tatler Cunard travel guide awards. Room rates at the hotel, part of the Island Outpost group of Caribbean and Florida hotels, start at $75 (about £50) a night ur April 15, then drop to $50 night until December. D tails: 0800 614 790.

☐ CHILDREN under 13 c now stay and eat free at t 65-strong Forte Posthou chain when accompanyi their parents on Leisu Breaks packages. Childr can either eat from a spec menu or have half portio from the main menu. Detai 0345 404040.

☐ ONLY one in every thr hotels now offers guests "turn-down" service (turni back the bed covers), a cording to a survey Horwath UK, a hotel cons tancy. But more than half t hotels surveyed provid non-smoking rooms. Ho warth: 0171-353 5380.

FLIGHTS

AUSTRAVEL is offering flights to Perth for £449 return from Manchester on January 18 and Gatwick on January 25. Details: 0171-734 7755.

☐ TRAVEL Warehouse is offering a return to Tokyo for £588 until the end of February. Flights are with Air France with connections from Heathrow, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester. Details: 0171-414 8808.

☐ PASSENGERS booking full-fare economy and business-class tickets with Gulf Air from next Thursday until the end of February will be upgraded at no extra cost. Details: 0171-408 1717.

☐ UNITED's "Fare of the Year" promotion provides a return business class flight from London to New York or Washington for £1,996, a saving of £350. Details: 0181-990 9900.

☐ AIR UK has extended the validity of its £299 three-day and £249 day return tickets between Stansted and Copenhagen, Florence, Hambur Madrid, Munich and Zuric Details: 0345 666777.

☐ EXECUTIVE Club mem bers flying British Airways Milan from Londo Birmingham, Glasgow Manchester earn double A Miles on business cla flights taken before the end February. Details: 099 322322.

☐ MANX Airlines ha launched a Club Sovereig frequent flyer scheme. Ben fits include free flights ar airport lounge access. D tails: 0345 256256.

FERRIES

NEWCOMER Sea France, has a "Discovery" tariff, until March 31, of £90 return Dover-Calais for a car and two passengers. The fare includes a £45 voucher towards another crossing this year. Details: 01304 204204.

☐ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has a 24-hour overnight return, Dover-Calais, at £55 per car with up to nine passengers, Sunday to Thursday until March 31 (£10 supplement Friday and Saturday). It also has a turn-up-and-go daytrip offer on the same route until February 15, costing at £10 a car with up to five passengers. Saturdays £10 extra. Details: 0990 980980.

☐ HOVERSPEED has a standby fare, until January 31, on its Dover-Calais SeaCat service of £10 a car and £1 each passenger. Foot passengers £2, daytrippers £1. Details: 01304 240241.

☐ SALLY Ferries is quoting a Winter Saver fare of £50, until March 31, for a five-day return for a car and up to five passengers (£99 standard return) on its Ramsgate routes to Dunkirk and Ostend. Details: 01843 595566.

☐ EURODRIVE quotes daytrips on Sally Ferries' Ramsgate routes at £10 per car pl five people, £39 for five day Hoverspeed five-day retu at £59 for car plus fi passengers (£85 standard r turn). Both sets of fares val until March 31. Stena Line routes to Calais, Dieppe an Cherbourg sell for £39 (thre day return), £49 (five day and £69 standard, all for c plus five. Bookings by Febr ary 15 for travel by April Details: 0181 342 8979.

☐ SCANDANAVIAN Se ways is offering 50 per ce off fares from Harwich either Hamburg, Esbjerg Gothenburg on select dates until March 15. Detai 0990 333000.

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Smith may be promoted to opener

Stewart threatened by England's search for order

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BLOEMFONTEIN

ENGLAND'S cricketers arrived here yesterday with their morale as low as it has been since they began their tour of South Africa 12 weeks ago after their capitulation in the first one-day international on Tuesday night.

The only relief for the tour management is that the team has bidden farewell to Cape Town, where it lost three matches that appeared to be in the bag and, in the frank assessment of Raymond Illingworth, the manager, yesterday, the players lost focus and commitment because of the presence of their families.

England postponed until this morning announcing their team for the second in the series of seven one-day internationals here this afternoon, but changes are almost certain, possibly radical ones. Fielding a team packed with limited-overs factotums, as England did on Tuesday, is sound enough in theory, but if, in practice, they fail under pressure, it is dangerously flawed.

After just one match, England are seriously considering abandoning this strategy and again altering the balance of their side. There appear to be two alternatives open to them. One is to bring in a sixth batsman, perhaps Ramprakash, at the expense of an all-rounder, possibly White rather than Reeve, whose lack of match practice is likely to act in his defence. The other is more dramatic: to bring in Robin Smith as an opener, play Russell as wicketkeeper and to drop Stewart.

Stewart has been an integral member of England's one-day side for several years, but, recently, his technique has looked increasingly unconvincing in all international matches. Smith, though not the best of fielders, has an outstanding one-day record, with as many hundreds for England to his credit as the rest of the party combined.

The manager's assessment of the defeat on Tuesday was damning. "We made mistakes that you do not expect professionals to make," he said. "We've got to get back our discipline. There have been a lot of distractions. A lot of people have been around and it's been very bitty.

"I would agree that the players have not been as focused in the last week or so as in the first part of the tour. It is difficult when families and friends are here. It is a contentious issue and I do not know what the answer is. Perhaps they should come out earlier, at a quieter period of the tour." The mood of Michael Atherton, the captain, was no less sombre. "We did pretty well to lose," he said.

Reeve: lack of practice

"I thought it was a game we should have won, but we gave away 17 extras and dropped Pollock with a fairly easy chance. We would have settled for chasing 212, but it should have been 180." From 155 for three, England collapsed to 205 all out to lose by six runs.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, confirmed that his side had been in an almost hopeless position. "It was a case of they lost it rather than we won it," he said. "At the second drinks break [taken shortly before England's collapse], we had a very, very slim chance to win and thought we would just wait, be calm and see what happened. Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald came back and were very positive."

In the closing stages, the contrast could not have been more stark. South Africa bowled and fielded tigerishly and held on to every chance: the England lower order froze from the moment Fairbrother drove loosely into the hands of mid-on. "There are a lot of areas to tighten up," Atherton said. "We need to find our best combination. We need some cool heads under pressure."

Although Richard Illingworth, their first-choice slow bowler, is not quite recovered from his strained side, England remain keen to field one specialist spinner in each match, even though Atherton gave Neil Smith only two overs in Cape Town.

One thing, at least, about the match on Tuesday cheered Atherton — the profligacy of the early South Africa batsmen, who threw away wickets like confetti. "If South Africa continue to play like that, I will be surprised if we do not beat them," he said. Unfortunately for the England captain, rarely have the past few weeks been surprise-free.

☐ The stadium in the Indian city of Nagpur, near Bombay, where a wall collapsed killing ten spectators during an international match in November, was yesterday confirmed as the venue for the Australia-Zimbabwe match in the World Cup on March 1.

DAVID GRAY

She may have been away from the game since September, but the grimaces and fiercely-driven, double-handed shots were as familiar as ever when Monica Seles returned to tournament tennis yesterday. Despite a brief attack of nerves, the world's joint-No 1, whose last match was in losing to Steffi Graf in the final of the US Open, was quickly into her stride, dismissing Dominique Monami, of Belgium, 6-1, 6-2 in 55 one-sided minutes in the second round of the Peters International event in Sydney. However, although Seles was the main attraction at the White City courts, Greg Rusedski, of Great Britain, was the day's outstanding performer. The Canadian-born British No 1, who beat Richard Krajicek, of Holland, the No 2 seed, on Tuesday, thrashed Carsten Arriens, of Germany, 6-0, 6-0 in a little less than 29 minutes in his second-round match, serving ten aces and dropping just six points in each set. It is believed to be the fastest win at the tournament in the modern era. Tim Henman, Britain's other representative, will not be joining Rusedski in the quarter-finals. Henman lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Mark Woodforde, of Australia, the experienced left-hander.

Ruling on Modahl case is imminent

By JOHN GOODBODY

DIANE MODAHL has cleared another hurdle in the battle to prove her innocence on drug-taking charges. Sources at the International Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday that there had been a "misunderstanding" and that the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion was eligible to run anywhere in the world until an arbitration panel settled the dispute.

That settlement could come within the next two weeks. Vicente Modahl, the athlete's husband, said. "This is great news, but why do they not just admit they cannot prove a case against her?" he asked.

It was previously thought that Modahl could run in British domestic meetings but not internationally until the arbitration panel reached a verdict. Tony Ward, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) spokesman, said: "We are a bit surprised it has come out like this, but we are nevertheless delighted for Diane."

Modahl has been battling to prove her innocence since she was sent back from the Commonwealth Games in August 1994 after a urine sample taken at a meeting in Lisbon two months earlier produced an unacceptably high testosterone-epitestosterone ratio. A BAF disciplinary committee concluded that Modahl must have taken the male hormone, testosterone, which helps competitors to recover quickly.

However, last July, a BAF appeal panel upheld her claim that her urine sample had not been refrigerated for about 40 hours before being transferred to the Portuguese laboratory for analysis and that the contamination may have given rise to a false result. Two scientists confirmed this possibility.

The IAAF has described this view as "a remote theory" and asked for the case to be heard by an arbitration panel, due to convene in Monte Carlo in the near future. Its decision will finally determine whether Modahl, 29, should face a four-year ban from the sport.

IN BRIEF

Syed sets off for Atlanta

MATTHEW SYED, of Great Britain, took his first step towards the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer with a straight-games victory on the opening day of the Olympic table tennis qualifying competition at the Nynex Arena, Manchester, yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Syed beat Taric Hodzic, of Bosnia, 22-20, 21-9, 21-10, recovering from 9-14 down in the first game and saving two game-points at 18-20 before imposing himself.

Andrea Holt, England's other No 1, beat Tatiana Stofblat, of Israel, 21-11, 21-13, 21-19.

Bidding begins

Olympic Games: Eleven cities have made formal applications to stage the 2004 summer Olympic Games. They are Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, San Juan (Puerto Rico), Seville, Stockholm and St Petersburg.

☐ A consortium backed by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, is bidding about £1.3 billion for the European rights to screen the winter and summer Olympics between 2000 and 2008, according to Sydney Olympic officials yesterday.

Richards out

Bowls: England's indoor selectors have left out Wynne Richards, the No 9 seed in the world indoor championships in Preston next month, in their attempt to wrest the Hilton Trophy from Scotland. There are three new caps in the 28-strong party — Stuart Airey, John Leeman and Paul Bennett.

Double top

Real tennis: Chris Bray and Mike Gooding, the favourites, won the BNB Resources British professional doubles championship, beating Nick Wood, of Hampton Court, and Adam Phillips, of Hatfield, the No 3 seeds, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the final.

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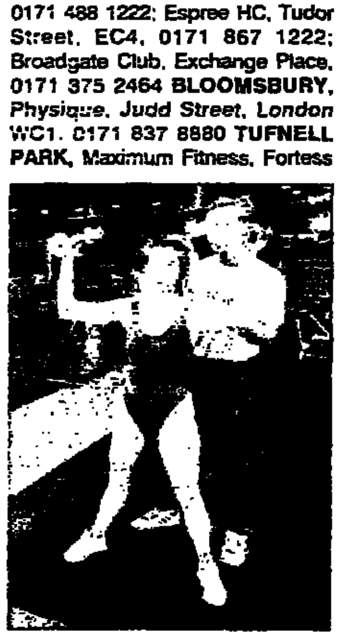

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THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING: SEE PAGES 14 AND 15

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Minton's acumen endears him to Millions

Julian Muscat on a larger than life character with the knack of finding winners for syndicates

They may not know him by name, but regular racegoers will recognise the man orchestrating joyous scenes in the winner's enclosure. David Minton cuts quite a figure as he handshakes the owner, embraces the trainer and dishes out several thumping slaps to the neck of the winning horse. You can see him radiating pride from a hundred paces.

Indeed, you can recognise Minton's frame from even further afield. He makes a rare exception among a fraternity that habitually walks at breakneck pace. If most trainers carry as little spare flesh as their charges, Minton resembles the horse returning from a prolonged period at grass.

But that, in essence, is the man himself. In every way he is larger than life, a fact to which the many contented shareholders in his Million In Mind syndicates will testify.

Those shareholders have been infected by their leader's unbridled passion for National Hunt racing. It greatly helps if a horse like Mysilv races in the syndicate's colours, but in the sometimes murky world of multiple ownership, many of Minton's accolytes have become annual investors on the pleasure principle alone.

The Million partnerships have grown in numbers every year since their inception five years ago. A syndicate initially geared for Flat racing quickly orientated towards jumpers — and a flurry of notable achievements.

That was to be expected given Minton's prowess at plucking Triumph Hurdle winners largely from Flat racing's wastelands. Connaught Ranger, Saxon Farm, First Bout, Alone Success, Kribensis, and Mysilv were all his purchases and hopes are high that Our Kris, a 20,000 guineas recruit, can hoist the Million pennant come Cheltenham in March.

Although the horse recently lost his unbeaten record in Sandown's gluepot conditions, bookmakers still rate him Britain's best prospect against the inevitable onslaught from Ireland.

"I am greatly helped in buying horses off the Flat by my assistant, Anthony Bromiley," Minton said of his penchant for the Triumph Hurdle. "He follows the form very closely while I will look at the horse's pedigree, which is important, and then assess it as an individual. I very rarely buy American-breds; they can't adapt to hurdles at all. And we always try to buy privately rather than at the sales, where horses can get very expensive," Minton added.

A prerequisite in any Minton purchase is that it must extend itself at the walk. "Remittance Man, Travado and Barton Bank are three of my best store purchases," he said. "If you want to be critical you could say they were a bit narrow and light in their frames. They never were the most prepossessing individuals but one thing they could all do is walk. They were all tremendous athletes."

Minton's eye for a prospective jumper was among the assets inherited by the British Bloodstock Agency (BBA) when he merged his business with the larger firm nine months ago. With Minton now on the board of directors, the BBA, a publicly-quoted company, has far greater ambitions in the National Hunt arena.

He will consequently be filling larger orders at sales of young jumpers. Then there's the Fortune In Mind syndicate, a BBA-inspired, Minton-driven venture aimed at duplicating Million's jumping successes on the Flat. This premium on Minton's time will do nothing for what he describes as "my dream life of training a handful of young jumpers somewhere out in the country."

Given his National Hunt bias, recent converts to the sport might find it hard to believe Minton was among the Flat's big-spending bloodstock agents as recently as five years ago. He was up there trading seven-figure bids with the sheikhs over the choicest yearlings in his capacity as manager for the Thompsons's Cheveley Park Stud.

Occasionally he would even act for Sheikh Mohammed through his friendship with Anthony Stroud, the sheikh's racing manager and former colleague at the Curragh Bloodstock Agency. Yet he maintains he is now happier than ever, buying regularly for Nicky Henderson, David Nicholson, Henrietta Knight and Micky Hammond in the less rarified atmosphere of store auctions.

In that sense Minton is only playing true to type. The first deal he ever struck, some 25 years ago, was over Comedy Of Errors, a jumping stalwart who was deprived of a Champion Hurdle treble by Lanzarote. As a grandson of Bob Bebb, the Shropshire farmer who bred Pendil, it would have amounted to a betrayal of catastrophic proportions had Minton deserted his roots by concentrating his energies on the Flat.

TONY EDENDEN

Minton, a National Hunt stalwart, has purchased six subsequent Triumph Hurdle winners

ROA takes dim view of spoiling tactics

THE conflict of interest between race sponsors and owners displaying commercial sponsorship on their silks escalated yesterday when the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA) said it would be advising its members not to tolerate the spoiling tactics adopted by George Ward, the chairman of Tripleprint, in the wake of One Man's King George VI Chase victory at Sandown on Saturday (Julian Muscat writes).

John Paxman, director-general of the ROA, said yesterday: "Owners employ jockeys to wear their silks and we maintain it is wrong for those silks to be interfered with." Paxman will also be raising the matter with the British Horseracing Board and racecourse officials next week.

Ward arranged for a sash to be worn by the winning jockey, Richard Dunwoody, which obscured the logo on his silks, giving Tripleprint exclusive television exposure.

Owners and breeders were granted VAT concessions amounting to £20 million in exchange for their commitment to attracting sponsorship. Some £2.7 million has been generated since the scheme was launched 17 months ago, but the concession is up for review by Customs & Excise any time from March.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

12.40 'Iggins
1.10 Wild West Wind
1.40 Lucayan Cay
2.10 *Viking Flagship*
2.40 *Highest Roots*
3.10 *Rectory Garden*
3.40 *Haile Derring*

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **HAILE DERRING.**

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 SPETISBURY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I £2,758: 2m) (18 runners)

101 00-1 'IGGINS 37 (D,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 6-11-11 P Hide 93
102 1 LUCKY EDDIE 35 (G) (I Shaw) P Hobbs 5-11-11 C Maude 95
103 232- BOLD DOLPHIN 287 (S Preston) T Forster 6-11-5 R Farrant ⊞
104 0/P4 BURLINGTON SAM 58 (D Barons) D Barons 8-11-5 R Greene –
105 6 CARDINAL RULE 37 (P Burch) J Edwards 7-11-5 R Dunwoody –
106 3-2 *CHAI-YO 30 (N Viney) J Old 6-11-5 T Grantham* –
107 5630/ COUNTRY CONCORDE 638 (B Coles) C Jones 6-11-5 G McCourt –
108 20 GONE FOR LUNCH 57 (Gradely Partners) Miss H Knight 5-11-5 G F Ryan –
109 54 HOODED HAWK 59 (C Hamer) N Henderson 5-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 86
110 21 MISTER MOROSE 21 (S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 C Llewellyn –
111 6-402 MR KERMIT 43 (D Bagden) A J Wilson 5-11-5 L Harvey 94
112 1/00- NEBAAL 420 (G) (C Humphry) G Thorner 6-11-5 Clare Thorner –
113 4 WHO AM I 35 (J Burley) R Alner 6-11-5 Mr P Henley (5) 84
114 21/64 WIZZO 27 (F) (H Weeks) B Palling 6-11-5 B Powell 77
115 204- CHARMING GIRL 278 (C Coxen) O Sherwood 5-11-0 J Osborne –
116 36-0 HALONA 57 (Mrs Z Clark) S Christian 6-11-0 G Upton –
117 LADY NOSO (Mrs S King) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0 W Marston –
118 0 VITAL DECISION 28 (D Cris) N Lampard 7-11-0 Mr L Baker (7) –

BETTING: 11-4 Lucky Eddie, 3-1 'Iggins, 9-2 Mister Morose, Bold Dolphin, 8-1 Chai-Yo, 10-1 Hooded Hawk, Lady Noso, 12-1 others.

1995: CONQUERING LEADER 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald (9-4 fav) N Henderson 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

'IGGINS beat Welsh Mill ¾l in a 19-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). LUCKY EDDIE beat Gamwin 1¼l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). BOLD DOLPHIN 3½l 3rd of 23 to Killone Abbot in a novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). *CHAI-YO 7l 2nd of 10 to Chapresse in a National Hunt Flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good).* HOODED HAWK 4½l 4th of 14 to La Menorquina in a novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good). MISTER MOROSE beat Sutherland Moss 4l in a 17-runner maiden National Hunt Flat race at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy).

MR KERMIT 5l 2nd of 16 to Buttercup Joe in a novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). CHARMING GIRL about 6¾l 4th of 14 to *Dantes Cavalier in grade II Martell Champion National Hunt Flat race at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm).*

Selection: 'IGGINS

1.10 SPETISBURY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,758: 2m) (18 runners)

201 0- BROOMHILL BOY 287 (S Hemstock) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-5 W Marston –
202 25 CONNAUGHT CRACKER 38 (BF) (Connaught Group Ltd) P Hobbs 6-11-5 G McCourt –
203 DAWN INVADER (D Caro) D Caro 5-11-5 D Bridgwater –
204 *002-U DECIDE YOURSELF 69 (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 6-11-5 D Gallagher* –
205 20 GENERAL JACKIE 41 (Michael Jackson Bloodstock) J Gifford 6-11-5 P Hide 79
206 HOLD THE FORT (A Sellick) A Dunn 5-11-5 C Maude –
207 LAUREN'S TREASURE (Mrs S Williams) Mrs S Williams 5-11-5 B Powell –
208 MACNAMARA (J Bolam) S Woodman 6-11-5 K Gaule (3) –
209 63 PHAR FROM FUNNY 21 (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 5-11-5 A P McCoy –
210 00/ SILVER SUMAL 818 (M Penny) H Oliver 7-11-5 Jacqui Oliver –
211 50- SUPREME FLAME 292 (H Cole) C Popham 6-11-5 T Dascombe (5) –
212 6 THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 43 (Miss A Murray) D Nicholson 5-11-5 R Dunwoody –
213 *4/4 TREMBLE 28 (Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald* –
214 4210-24 WILD WEST WIND 26 (S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 6-11-5 J F Titley ⊞
215 COCO POINT (Mrs S Morton) S Sherwood 6-11-0 G Upton –
216 0 FRANK IRISH 34 (F Jarvey) G Thorner 5-11-0 L Harvey –
217 *0 MISS FOXY 50 (P Tylor) R Frost 6-11-0 J Frost* –
218 13 MY OLD CHINA 64 (F) (Mrs G Foster) A Foster 7-11-0 C Llewellyn –

BETTING: 5-2 Wild West Wind, 4-1 Tremble, 5-1 Coco Point, 7-1 Connaught Cracker, 8-1 General Jackie, 10-1 The Captain's Wish, 12-1 Phar From Funny, 14-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

CONNAUGHT CRACKER 1¼l 2nd of 16 to Castle Sweep in National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f good to soft) penultimate start. GENERAL JACKIE 10l 2nd of 3 to Tim in novice hurdle at *Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm).* PHAR FROM FUNNY 13l 3rd of 17 to Mister Morose in maiden National Hunt Flat race at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). THE CAPTAIN'S WISH about 4½l 6th of 17 to Badger's Lane in a National Hunt Flat race at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). TREMBLE 20l 4th of 18 to Boss's Bank in NH Flat race at Towcester (2m, soft) with PHAR FROM FUNNY about 9l 6th. WILD WEST WIND 5l 2nd of 3 to La Khoumi in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. MY OLD CHINA 1l and head 3rd of 18 to Nordic Prince in NH Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm).

Selection: WILD WEST WIND

1.40 WEATHERBYS LEASING DIRECTORY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,688: 2m) (19 runners)

301 311233 NORDIC VALLEY 29 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 5-12-0 O Burrows (3) 98
302 323-6P3 LYING EYES 31 (S) (A Holbrook) W G M Turner 5-11-4 J G Power (3) 97
303 335141 CORRIN HILL 27 (F,G,S) (B Froome) R Hodges 9-11-3 T Dascombe ⊞
304 500313 HO-JOE 27 (D,G,S) (S Ho) G Yardley 6-11-2 D Walsh 85
305 22260R LAWNSWOOD JUNIOR 27 (B,F) (G Tregiown) J Spearing 9-10-10 S Righton (3) 92
306 0411-24 GREEN'S FAIR 38 (D,BF,S) (N Ahier) G Ham 6-10-9 R Massey 95
307 80-023 LUCAYAN CAY 50 (BF) (Peters and Lee) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-6 G Hogan 95
308 134106- ALICE'S MIRROR 232 (B,D,G,S) (A Partnership) K Bishop 7-10-6 S Curran 93
309 4/0P-402 MUSTAHIL 31 (B,F) (Unity Farm Holiday Ltd) R Hodges 7-10-5 J Harris (3) 96
310 005510 CHRIS'S GLEN 7 (V,D,F,G) (Tote End Racing Club) J Bradley 7-10-4 Philip Hughes (3) 93
311 600-402 NIGHT IN A MILLION 30 (Leith Hill Chasers) S Woodman 5-10-4 K Gaule 94
312 500115- WINSPIT 227 (CD,F) (Mrs J Purdie) R Alner 6-10-4 T J Murphy 89
313 0-13321 DONTDRESSFORDINNER 30 (F,G) (D'dressfordinner Partners) C Popham 8-10-3 G Tormey 93
314 610-345 QUINTA ROYALE 38 (D,G) (L Snook) L Snook 9-10-0 Sophie Mitchell 96
315 123-050 GAVASKAR 41 (D,F) (Highflyers) G Balding 7-10-0 B Fenton 88
316 13/P00 RUN FAST FOR GOLD 42 (F) (Mrs D Hodges) Miss H Knight 9-10-0 G F Ryan –
317 0/PPP0- MAYFIELD PARK 222P (G) (Robin Barwell) C Barwell 11-10-0 I Hudson (6) 67
318 4000/30 DRAMATIC EVENT 60 (D,BF,G) (D Spackland) J Moore 11-10-0 J Magee 84
319 P/0/145 NEEDWOOD NATIVE 29 (D Bagden) A J Wilson 8-10-0 Chris Webb 83

Long handicap: Run Fast For Gold 9-7, Mayfield Park 9-7, Dramatic Event 9-6, Needwood Native 9-4.

BETTING: 7-2 Corrin Hill, 5-1 Lucayan Cay, 6-1 Nordic Valley, 7-1 Ho-Joe, Green's Fair, 8-1 Dontdressfordinner, 10-1 Night In A Million, 12-1 others

1995: NORSTOCK 5-10-9 T Dascombe (7-1) R Hodges 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC VALLEY short-head and 9l 3rd of 6 to The Caumrue in a handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start. CORRIN HILL beat Hawaiian Sam 6l in a 9-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good) with HO-JOE (7lb better off) 11½l 3rd. HO-JOE beat Latin Leader 3l in a 15-runner selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start with DONTDRESSFORDINNER (3lb better off) 6l 3rd. LUCAYAN CAY 4l and head 3rd of 9 to Sassiver in a conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) with CORRIN HILL (7lb worse off) 5l 4th. *MUSTAHIL 5l 2nd of 7 to Miss Souter in a handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft).* DONTDRESSFORDINNER beat NIGHT IN A MILLION (3lb better off) 3l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good).

Selection: NORDIC VALLEY

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Pearce fined

BRIAN PEARCE, the trainer, was fined £750 by the disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club yesterday after an identity mix-up. Pearce's runner, Ela-Ment, appeared under the name of Hong Kong Dollar at Lingfield on September 28 and Wolverhampton on October 14.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) *Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy)* Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

2.10 *JOHN BULL CHASE (£7,035: 2m 5f) (4 runners)*

401 11U21-1 DUBLIN FLYER 61 (CD,G,S) (J Sumner) T Forster 10-11-10 B Powell ⊞
402 R21PF-P LUSTY LIGHT 34 (CD,F,G,S) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-10 W Marston 71
403 2F0-113 TRAVADO 40 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 10-11-10 M A Fitzgerald 93
404 5F211-4 VIKING FLAGSHIP 40 (C,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 9-11-10 R Dunwoody 98

BETTING: 5-4 Viking Flagship, 7-4 Dublin Flyer, 3-1 Travado, 8-1 Lusty Light.

1995: LUSTY LIGHT 9-11-10 W Marston (5-1) Mrs J Pitman 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DUBLIN FLYER beat Egypt Mill Prince ¾l in 12-runner Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good). LUSTY LIGHT won this race last year beat Bradbury Star dist in a 5-runner chase (good to soft) with DUBLIN FLYER unseated rider last. TRAVADO 9l 3rd of 5 to Sound Man in grade I Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown (2m, good) with VIKING FLAGSHIP dist 4th. VIKING FLAGSHIP beat Deep Sensation short-head in 6-runner grade I Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm) penultimate start.

Selection: DUBLIN FLYER

2.40 BLACKMORE VALE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,618: 2m) (18 runners)

501 HIGHEST ROOTS 101F (Knight Hawks Partnership) M Pipe 5-12-0 D Bridgwater –
502 P0 RAINBOW ROAD 35 (405200 Racing) M Pipe 5-12-0 J Lower –
503 22F1-52 ROBINS PRIDE 37 (G) (M Long) C Popham 6-11-12 T Dascombe (5) 94
504 *0 EMMA GRIMES 37 (M Holder) J Moore 5-11-9 W McFarland* 71
505 5-24511 STAC-POLLAIDH 38 (D,F) (I Buchan) K Bailey 6-11-9 T J Murphy (3) ⊞
506 60 SOUTHERN RIDGE 112 (S McCausland) R Baker 5-11-8 Mr I Dowrick –
507 FLAIR LADY 33F (Mrs M Teversham) W G M Turner 5-11-7 A Thornton –
508 650-0 KIRI'S ROSE 45 (Mrs M McCourt) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-7 B Clifford 75
509 F5 LADY LACEY 42 (Mrs K Perrin) G Balding 9-11-5 B Fenton (5) 73
510 00- RIO DANCER 287 (Samurai Partnership) H Oliver 7-11-5 Philip Hughes (7) 75
511 TRUIS QUEST (M Saunders) M Saunders 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald –
512 QUEEN OF SHANNON 360F (G Day) A Carroll 8-11-4 R Davis –
513 0 DANTELEIGH 50 (J Coles) P Eccles 5-11-3 Chris Webb (5) –
514 ROI DU NORD 151F (P Hobbs) P Hobbs 4-11-2 G Tormey (3) –
515 00/P JUNGLE HIGHWAY 28 (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 7-11-1 J A McCarthy –
516 GABRIEL'S LADY 153F (Gabriels Farm Partnership) H Rowsell 5-10-13 A Tory –
517 *00 DISSOLVE 49 (Western Solvents Ltd) N Lampard 4-10-11 Mr L Baker (7)* 70
518 DR FRANCES 129F (R Berenson) C C Elsey 4-10-7 M Richards –

BETTING: 9-4 Highest Roots, 3-1 Stac-Pollaidh, 5-1 Robins Pride, 7-1 Roi Du Nord, 8-1 Rainbow Road, 10-1 Lady Lacey, 12-1 others

1995: NORDIC CROWN 4-10-11 R Dunwoody (1-2 fav) M Pipe 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

HIGHEST ROOTS about 2l 4th of 19 to Borjito in claimer at Maisons-Laffitte (1m 2f, soft). ROBINS PRIDE 6l 2nd of 9 to False Creek in claiming novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to soft). *STAC-POLLAIDH, completed double, beat Tony's Mist 1l in 15-runner claiming novice hurdle at* Ludlow (2m, good to firm) with RAINBOW ROAD (9lb better off) pulled up 3 out. KIRI'S ROSE 36l 7th of 21 to Wren Warbler in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, soft). LADY LACEY 29¼l 5th of 12 to Master Beveled in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, *good to soft). ROI DU NORD ¾l 4th of 9 to Henric* in Saint Malo minor event (1m 1f, good).

Selection: ROBIN'S PRIDE

3.10 LILLO LUMB CHALLENGE CUP
(Handicap chase: £4,380: 3m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

601 PP-4301 BISHOPS ISLAND 29 (G,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 10-12-0 G F Ryan (5) 90
602 151-F52 MR FLANAGAN 26 (CD,G,S) (Mrs R Stanley) C Brooks 10-11-11 D Gallagher 91
603 14-321F DUHALLOW LODGE 29 (G,S) (H Spack) C Barwell 9-11-10 D Bridgwater 94
604 U26152 TUG OF PEACE 51 (CD,F,G,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 9-11-9 B Clifford 91
605 1FP-405 GIVUS A BUCK 29 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (K Costello) D Elsworth 13-11-8 P Holley –
606 61224-1 ACT OF PARLIAMENT 64 (B,F,G) (J Perriss) K Bailey 8-11-6 R Dunwoody 90
607 4PF3P-2 BOLL WEEVIL 26 (G,S) (J Bolsover) O Sherwood 10-11-5 J Osborne 92
608 2212-P5 JAILBREAKER 34 (G,S) (Mrs G Willman) B Millman 9-11-4 M A Fitzgerald 89
609 14-3442 SUNLEY BAY 29 (CD,G,S) (Mrs M Barber) P Nicholls 10-11-4 A P McCoy ⊞
610 222/6/5 NORMAN CONQUEROR 58 (V,F,G,S) (Queen Elizabeth) T T Jones 11-11-4 G McCourt –
611 45-1212 GILPA VALU 38 (BF,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-13 W Marston 92
612 12211-2 RECTORY GARDEN 76 (S) (Lord Cadogan) T Forster 7-10-9 A Thornton 90
613 465P5-2 SILVERINO 41 (B,G,S) (S Burfield) Simon Earle 10-10-3 C Maude 93
614 43/UP/0 FREDS MELODY 29 (F Tucker) F Tucker 11-10-0 G Upton –

Long handicap: Freds Melody 8-8

BETTING: 4-1 Mr Flanagan, 5-1 Bishops Island, Rectory Garden, 6-1 Act Of Parliament, 7-1 Gilpa Valu, 8-1 Boll Weevil, 10-1 Tug Of Peace, 12-1 Duhallow Lodge, 14-1 others.

1995: MR FLANAGAN 9-10-2 G Bradley (3-1) C Brooks 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

BISHOPS ISLAND beat Staunch Rival 5l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good) with GIVUS A BUCK (17lb better off) 40l 5th. DUHALLOW LODGE (7lb better off) 5th when *fell 6th. MR FLANAGAN 6l 2nd of 6 to High Padre in a handicap chase at Haydock (4m 110yd, good).* DUHALLOW LODGE beat Toureen Prince 3l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good) penultimate start. TUG OF PEACE 5l 2nd of 7 to Dextra Dove in a handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good). ACT OF PARLIAMENT beat Colonnay Boy 4l in a 4-runner handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good to firm). BOLL WEEVIL neck 2nd of 7 to Matt Reid in a handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm). SUNLEY BAY 8l 2nd of 12 to Nazzaro in a handicap chase at Bangor (4m 1f, good to soft). GILPA VALU 6l 2nd of 5 to Romany Creek in a handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to firm). RECTORY GARDEN 4l 2nd of 10 to Too Plush in a handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). SILVERINO 4l 2nd of 15 to Harwell Lad in a handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft) with SUNLEY BAY (4lb better off) 16l 4th.

Selection: SILVERINO

3.40 CORSCOMBE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,063: 2m 6f) (18 runners)

1 25-4361 DARING KING 44 (D,S) (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 6-11-10 L Aspell (5) 86
2 00/06-60 WREKENGALE 50 (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-7 W Marston 80
3 3/0623/ ARMATEUR 628 (Maj H Ponte) J McConnochie 8-11-4 R Bellamy –
4 0600/06- CARRIG DANCER 248 (W Fearon) S Sherwood 8-11-2 J Osborne –
5 500 ANDRE'S AFFAIR 42 (B) (D Milburn) D ffrench Davis 5-11-0 I Lawrence 80
6 420-P06 ROSIE-B 26 (Diamond Precision Eng) R Stronge 6-10-13 R Stronge 86
7 00-2203 KOO'S PROMISE 22 (G Warren Ltd) C Popham 5-10-12 T Dascombe (5) 85
8 2-2U023 SUPER SHARP 62 (B) (M Penny) H Oliver 8-10-10 Jacqui Oliver 80
9 PP30-3 CAPTAIN COE 30 (Heart of the South Racing) R Curtis 5-10-9 D Morris 80
10 *0320-24 MR PLAYFULL 10 (P Tylor) R Frost 6-10-8 J Frost* 80
11 00-0SPP ORCHESTRAL DESIGNS 10 (T Coughlan) G Ham 5-10-8 S Burrough –
12 0-53P44 MICK THE YANK 28 (B) (S Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 6-10-7 D Gallagher 80
13 F60F6-1 HAILE DERRING 7 (S) (Mrs V Stockdale) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-7 (6ex) C Llewellyn ⊞
14 55/00P-0 GENTLEMAN SID 26 (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 6-10-6 E Murphy –
15 1/5P0/ EASTERN RIVER 728 (G) (Garrison Equine) T Forster 10-10-5 A P McCoy –
16 /P5/PP0 AN BUCHAILL LIATH 10 (Mrs C Lyndon) G Ham 7-10-0 R Greene –
17 365/P OLD DEER PARK 60 (G) (Mrs S Jones) P Jones 10-10-0 O Burrows (7) –
18 000/F0-P FIVEPERCENT 29 (The Hole In The Wall Gang) C Barwell 8-10-0 B Clifford –

Long handicap: *An Buchaill Liath 9-12, Old Deer Park 9-8, Fivepercent 9-3*

BETTING: 2-1 Haile Derring, 5-1 Koo's Promise, 6-1 Daring King, 7-1 Mick The Yank, 10-1 Captain Coe, Rosie-B, 12-1 others.

1995: OATS N BARLEY 6-10-5 S Burrough (25-1) P Rodford 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARING KING beat Woodlands Boy neck in conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, soft). WREKENGALE 35¼l 6th to General Crack in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start. KOO'S PROMISE 27l 3rd to Caitlin Glas in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good). *CAPTAIN COE 6¾l 3rd to Freenia Girl in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good).* MR PLAYFULL 14l 2nd to Cross's Delight in selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, good) penultimate start. MICK THE YANK 6¾l 4th to Golden Nugget in novices' handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good to firm) with ROSIE-B (2lb better off) 8½l 6th and GENTLEMAN SID (2lb better off) 4l 8th. HAILE DERRING beat Cassio's Boy 11l in 19-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft)

Selection: HAILE DERRING (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	10	28	35.7	J Lower	7	21	33.3
Mrs J Pitman	22	69	31.9	R Dunwoody	31	142	21.8
M Pipe	35	126	27.8	J Osborne	11	60	18.3
R Alner	11	52	21.2	T Dascombe	3	17	17.6
Miss H Knight	5	25	20.0	W Marston	5	32	15.6

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kelso

Going: good to soft

1.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, MAJOR BELL (M Moloney, 4-1); 2, Savoy (P Carberry, 6-1); 3, Seeking Gold (A Thornton, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Ivy House (5th), 3 Seven Towers, 10 Dorlin Castle (f), 12 Quiet Mistress (pu), 33 Just The Job, 50 Paddy Morrissey, Perfect Light (4th), 66 D'Arblay Street, Donovans Reef, Go Silly (6th), 100 Lauder Square, 200 Island River, Sagaro Belle. 16 ran. Hd, 15l, 7l, 15l, 15l. A Whillans at Hawick. Tote: £6.70; £2.50, £2.40, £4.80. DF: £32.60. Trio: £334.00 (part won. Pool of £244.65 carried forward to 1.40 Wincanton today). CSF: £25.89.

1.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, ARAGON AYR (A Dobbin, 2-1); 2, Urban Dancing (B Harding, 10-11); 3, Vintage Taittinger (L Wyer, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Eurotwist (5th), *9 Mr Devious*, 25 Kirstenbosch (6th), 40 Ricana, 66 Marked Card (4th), 100 Nicky's Feelings (ur), Strathmore Dream (pu). 10 ran. 1½l, 12l, *1¼l, 1½l, 2½l. P Monteith at Rosewell.* Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £3.80, £3.10. DF: £45.10. Trio: £35.40. CSF: £22.11.

2.15 (2m 1f ch) 1, SONSIE MO (T Reed, *100-30*); 2, *Judicial Field (M Dwyer, 5-2 fav)*; 3, Briar's Delight (B Harding, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Strong Approach (6th), 5 Flash Of Realm (4th), 10 Super Sandy (5th). 6 ran. 3l, 11l, 2l, 12l, 1¼l. Mrs S Bradburne at Cupar. Tote: £4.30; £2.60, £1.80. DF: £9.80. CSF: £10.75.

2.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, COLONEL IN CHIEF (P Carberry, 8-11 fav); 2, Highland Way (R Garritty, 14-1); 3, Singing Sand (R Supple, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Jaunty General (4th), 7 Desert Brave (6th), 10 Henry Hoolet, 14 Skane River, 25 Dark Buoy, 50 Kenmare River (5th), Polly Star (f), 100 Solsgirth, Tumlin Oot, Turkish Tower, 200 Fine Tune, Foxlaw, Howyoudoing, Meadowleck, Ski Lady. 18 ran. 3½l, 10l, 2l, 9l, nk. F Murphy at Middleham. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.70, £8.90. DF: £8.80. Trio: £204.00. CSF: £12.06.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, EMERALD STORM (G Cahill, 6-1); 2, Stop The Waller (P Carberry, 13-2); 3, Ninfa (A Dobbin, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Rocket Run (6th), 4 *Kilcolgan (4th), 9 Son Of Iris, 16 Barney* Rubble, Golden Fiddle, Lupy Minstrel (pu), 25 Abercromby Chief (5th), Inconclusive, 50 Gala Water. 12 ran. 5l, 20l, 5l, 12l, 1½l. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £6.40; £1.80, £3.00, £3.20. DF: £29.60. Trio: £67.50. CSF: £42.05. Tricast: £417.51.

3.45 (2m 2f hdle) 1, COQUI LANE (D *Parker, 10-1*); 2, Steadfast Elite (A Roche, 7-2); 3, Scarba (M Newton, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Marco Magnifico, 9-2 Precipice Run (6th), 11 Chummy's Saga (5th), 16 Callernoy (4th). 7 ran. 1½l, 20l, 2½l, 30l, 1l. J Dun at Heriot. Tote: £12.60; £2.80, £2.70. DF: £23.20. CSF: £43.31.

Placepot: £626.00. Quadpot: £47.50.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MR MULLIGAN
(2.50 Wetherby)
Next best: Dublin Flyer
(2.10 Wincanton)

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.00 (1m 100yd) 1, Maple Bay (P Roberts, 11-4 fav); 2, Live Project (8-1); 3, Sarasi (8-1). 13 ran. 4l, 1½l. A Bailey. Tote: £3.70; £1.30, £3.80, £2.40. DF: £25.70. Trio: £53.10. CSF: £25.08. Bought in 3,600gns.

1.30 (7f) 1, Coachella (C Nutter, 11-2); 2, Yeoman Oliver (14-1); 3, Cointosser (9-1). Note of Caution 10-11 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. M Prescott. Tote: £7.20; £1.90, £2.60, £2.10. DF: £47.70. Trio: £109.90 (part won. Pool of £97.52 carried forward to 1.40 Wincanton today). CSF: £76.52.

2.00 (6f) 1, Sense Of Priority (Alex Greaves, 11-2); 2, Sir Tasker (7-2); 3, Brookhead Lady (9-1). Jigsaw Boy 3-1 fav. *13 ran. 1½l, 3l. D Nicholls. Tote: £14.10;* £3.40, £1.70, £3.40. DF: £29.90. Trio: £58.20. CSF: £25.91.

2.30 (1m 6f 166yd) 1, Lear Dancer (A Clark, 15-8 fav); 2, Shakiyr (7-2); 3, Badawi (12-1). 10 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. P Mitchell. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.70, £3.10. DF: £4.50. Trio: £39.30. CSF: £9.32. Tricast: £57.74.

3.00 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, Bernard Seven (J Weaver, 14-1); 2, South Eastern Fred (8-1); 3, Kinnwyn (20-1). Nigel's Lad 3-1 fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. C Brittain. Tote: £13.90; £2.90, £6.80, £14.20. DF: £38.70. Trio: £367.40 (part won. Pool of £465.81 carried forward to 1.40 Wincanton today). CSF: £128.08. Tricast: £2,095.70.

3.30 (1m 100yd) 1, Hand Of Straw (S *Drowne, 16-1*); 2, Faez (9-1); 3, Miss Zanzibar (5-1). No Submission 7-4 fav. 13 ran. 2½l, 2½l. P Murphy. Tote: £39.30; £6.20, £2.30, £2.80. DF: £89.90. Trio: £196.40. CSF: £151.21. No bid.

4.00 (5f) 1, Shadow Jury (L Charnock, 9-1); 2, Cheeky Chappy (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Featherstone Lane (7-1). Chadwell Hall 5-1 jt-fav. 13 ran. Hd, 1¾l. D Chapman. Tote: £9.00; *£3.00, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £30.00.* Trio: £89.50. CSF: £54.33. Tricast: £317.56.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £32,548.41 *carried forward to Wincanton today).*

Placepot: £2,241.70. Quadpot: £241.30 (part won. Pool of £287.48 carried forward to Wincanton today).

☐ Richard Dunwoody will keep the ride on Unguided Missile at Ascot tomorrow in preference to Gordon Richards's stable jockey Tony *Dobbin.*

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

12.40 Simply Dashing. 1.20 **LANSBOROUGH** (nap). 1.50 Lo Stregone. 2.20 Sharkashka. 2.50 Call It A Day. 3.20 Master Boston. 3.50 Alaskan Heir.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: Div I: £3,058: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 1111 SIMPLY DASHING 26 (C,D,F,G) M H Easterby 5-11-10 L Wyer ⊞
2 BRIDLE PATH M H Easterby 5-11-0 R Garritty –
3 6-60 CAREYSVILLE 41 J Edwards 5-11-0 R Johnson (3) –
4 0 CELTIC GIANT 26 L Lungo 6-11-0 T Reed 77
5 0-04 CRAZY WEATHER 21 Mrs P Sly 6-11-0 R Marley 74
6 6 FLYING GUNNER 64 D Nicholson 5-11-0 A Maguire –
7 *00- HARRYS SPECIAL 238 M Hammond 6-11-0 Mr J Davies (7)* –
8 0304 HIGHBEATH 6 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 P Niven 82
9 300- JUST BRUCE 264 Mrs E Heath 7-11-0 J Supple (3) 74
10 -644 MEAD COURT 43 N Chance 6-11-0 R Johnson (3) 58
11 2 RADICAL REFORM 26 N Mason 7-11-0 J Callaghan –
12 20-6 EMILYMOORE 58 P Beaumont 5-10-9 R Supple 84
13 0-24 GALLANTS DELIGHT 62 M Barnes 6-10-9 P Waggott 79
14 440U PASJA 28 S Gollings 5-10-9 A Dobbin 50

5-4 Simply Dashing, 4-1 Flying Gunner, 8-1 Celtic Giant, 12-1 Highbeath, Mead Court, Radical Reform, 14-1 others.

1.20 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: Div II: £3,058: 2m 4f 110yd) (14)

1 -212 LANSBOROUGH 26 (D,G) G Richards 6-11-5 P Carberry ⊞
2 0 BAILEYS BRIDGE 40 Mrs S Bramall 5-11-0 J Burke –
3 561- CLAVERHOUSE 264 (F) J Fitzgerald 7-11-0 M Dwyer –
4 0 CORSTON JOKER 26 L Lungo 6-11-0 T Reed 72
5 4-60 CURRENT MONY 33 M Hammond 5-11-0 Mr C Bonner (3) –
6 00 EURO THYNE 6 M H Easterby 6-11-0 L Wyer 63
7 *43-3 MACGEORGE 35 R Lee 6-11-0 P McLoughlin* 89
8 /U6 MITTENWALD 21 K Bailey 7-11-0 G Bradley –
9 0 OUT BY NIGHT 26 G Moore 5-11-0 N Bentley –
10 5-00 PUREVALUE 5 M W Easterby 5-11-0 R Garritty 66
11 63 TRUE SCOT 45 P Cheesbrough 6-11-0 R Supple 77
12 01-6 WILMAN 113 (F) M Hammond 6-11-0 R Burns (7) –
13 EAN MOR J Upson 5-10-9 J Supple (3) –
14 10-6 MISS OPTIMIST 42 (F) D Nicholson 6-10-9 A Maguire 92

6-4 Lansborough, 4-1 Macgeorge, 6-1 Claverhouse, Miss Optimist, 8-1 True Scot, 12-1 Corston Joker, 14-1 others.

1.50 *MONKTON HANDICAP CHASE*
(£5,053: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 -4P2 COGENT 33 (CD,F,G,S) J Glover 12-11-10 Mr C Bonner (3) ⊞
2 *U54- KATABATIC 280 (C,F,G,S) J Gifford 13-11-4 S McNeill* 88
3 P-P0 ANTONIN 61 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-4 J Burke 89
4 -211 SCOTTON BANKS 33 (CD,G,S) M H Easterby 7-11-0 L Wyer 96
5 U1F- TARTAN TYRANT 327 (CD,G,S) G Richards 10-11-0 A Dobbin 90
6 43-1 LO STREGONE 40 (CD,F,G,S) T Tate 10-10-13 Mr S Swiers 95
7 0/5 CARBISDALE 34 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-10 P Niven –
8 1P-2 CORNER BOY 28 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 9-10-0 A Maguire 81

5-2 Scotton Banks, 3-1 Lo Stregone, 4-1 Cogent, 5-1 Katabatic, 6-1 Tartan Tyrant, 10-1 Corner Boy, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 14 winners from 42 runners, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 44 from 150, 29.3%; J Gifford, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M H Easterby, 27 from 134, 20.1%; L Lungo, 3 from 15, 20.0%; G Richards, 22 from 112, 19.6%.

JOCKEYS: S McNeill, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; A Maguire, 20 from 73, 27.4%; P Niven, 42 from 158, 26.6%; L Wyer, 35 from 151, 23.2%; A Dobbin, 9 from 64, 14.1%; M Dwyer, 18 from 156, 11.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.00 Ultra Beet. 1.30 Justinianus. 3.30 Doddington Flyer. Wincanton: 1.40 Lawnswood Junior. 3.10 Norman Conqueror. 3.40 Andre's Affair

2.20 COWTHORPE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,945: 2m) (15)

1 0-34 SWEET MIGNONETTE 75 (D,BF,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-12-0 G Cahill (7) 85
2 10-0 GOLDEN HELLO 40 (D,F,G,S) M H Easterby 5-12-0 L Wyer 84
3 5-30 NOYAN 8F (D,F,G) D Nicholls 6-11-11 S Mason 89
4 0000 WHITE WILLOW 26 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-11 P Niven 91
5 -046 FRICKLEY 26 (D,G,S) F Murphy 10-11-7 P Carberry 87
6 5554 BRAMBLEBERRY 33 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 R Guest 89
7 2220 NEW INN 40 (D,F) S Gollings 5-11-1 A Maguire 88
8 *0F0- HIGH GRADE 266 (D,G,S) Miss S Wilton 8-11-0 R Johnson (3)* 91
9 6213 ELFLAA 37 (D,BF,F) N Henderson 5-11-0 J R Kavanagh 87
10 30-5 TEST MATCH 58 (D,G,S) W Clay 9-11-0 Guy Lewis (3) 96
11 /P5 BANK VIEW 33 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 11-10-12 E Husband (3) –
12 F4-P FLAT TOP 26 (S) M W Easterby 5-10-5 R Garritty 85
13 23-6 TWIN FALLS 26 (G) G Moore 5-10-5 J Callaghan 91
14 -3F0 SHARKASHKA 33 (F,G) M H Easterby 6-10-3 A Dobbin ⊞
15 0/4- BALLON 381 (D,G,S) M Dods 6-10-1 B Storey 88

7-2 Golden Hello, 9-2 Sweet Mignonette, 5-1 Elflaa, 10-1 Noyan, Sharkashka, New Inn, 14-1 others

2.50 TOWTON NOVICES CHASE
(Grade II: £12,680: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 0-61 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 26 (G,S) Mrs S Nock 7-11-13 G Bradley 88
2 *1221 SPANISH LIGHT 26 (D,F,G) G Richards 7-11-9 A Dobbin* 91
3 5-12 CALL IT A DAY 28 (S) D Nicholson 6-11-5 A Maguire ⊞
4 -231 CHURCH LAW 27 (G) Mrs L Taylor 9-11-5 R Supple 74
5 -111 MR MULLIGAN 48 (D,F,G) N Chance 8-11-5 R Johnson 98
6 0-2 OVER THE CORRIB 61 J Curtis 5-11-5 M Dwyer 55
7 3F11 PERUVIAN GALE 28 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-5 R Guest 62
8 5/1 UBU VAL 42 (D,F,G,S) W Bethell 10-11-5 A S Smith 85

2-1 Senor El Betrutti, 7-2 Spanish Light, 4-1 Mr Mulligan, 9-2 Call It A Day, 6-1 Ubu Val, 10-1 Church Law, 20-1 others

3.20 WIKE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,948: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 4211 MASTER BOSTON 26 (CD,G,S) R Woodhouse 8-12-0 L Wyer ⊞
2 P-4F NEWLANDS-GENERAL 26 (C,G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-12 *W Dwan* 87
3 5434 STRONG DEEL 6 (D,BF,F,G,S) W Reed 8-11-6 T Reed 97
4 1F-4 OVER THE POLE 50 (BF,G) J Gifford 9-11-3 NON-RUNNER 89
5 2615 SAILOR JIM 26 (D,F,G,S) P Dalton 9-10-12 A Maguire 97
6 11F1 EASBY JOKER 22 (D,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-10-11 P Niven 98
7 F3/ ASTINGS 608 (D,G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-10-6 W Dwan –

9-4 Master Boston, 5-2 Easby Joker, 9-2 Newlands-General, 8-1 Sailor Jim, Strong Deel, 14-1 Astings.

3.50 HEALAUGH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,058 2m 4f 110yd) (14)

1 5-04 MY SWAN SONG 31 (F,G) J Smith 11-12-0 J Supple 95
2 5P-2 NELTEGRITY 21 (S) Mrs P Sly 7-11-7 P McLoughlin 93
3 2-P3 TOPOTHENORTHRACING 50 (BF,S) P Beaumont 6-11-4 B Grattan (3) 90
4 0-43 ALASKAN HEIR 28 (D,G,S) A Streeter 5-11-3 B Harding 98
5 0F0- DERRING BRIDGE 244 (S) Mrs S Johnson 6-11-3 R Johnson 90
6 P-60 TRESIDDER 70 (F,G,S) M W Easterby 14-11-2 G Lee 88
7 324- CHARTERFORHARDWARE 236 (S) W Clay 10-11-1 Guy Lewis 87
8 P030 OLD MONEY 10 (G) C Broad 10-11-0 *A Larnach* 83
9 -640 MERRYHILL GOLD 40 J Curtis 5-10-10 D J Kavanagh (3) 93
10 2510 OWENS QUEST 7 (CD,BF,G) T Etherington 6-10-8 R Rourke (7) 93
11 -360 PATROCLUS 23 (D,S) J Mackie 11-10-8 E Husband ⊞
12 -544 TARGET LINE 35 (D,S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-5 R Wilkinson (3) 95
13 /64 SAFARI PARK 27 (F) W Bethell 7-10-4 G Cahill (3) 81
14 P-2R RUNWAY 110 M Barnes 6-10-0 D Parker 87

3-1 Neltegrity, 5-1 Owens Quest, 6-1 Alaskan Heir, 7-1 Topothenorthracing, 10-1 *Patroclus, Target Line, 16-1 others.*

☐ Express Gift, a leading fancy for Saturday's £60,000 Ladbroke hurdle at Leopardstown, has been forced to miss the race after damaging a muscle. The Mary Reveley-trained gelding will next run in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on February 10.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.00 Distant Dynasty. 1.30 Star Talent. 2.00 Swynford Flyer. *2.30 Love Bird. 3.00 Shontaine. 3.30* Iron N Gold.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Explosive Power. *2.30 Creeking. 3.30* **BROUGHTONS FORMULA** (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.00 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,075: 5f) (8 runners)

1 *00-6 ULTRA BEET 2 (B,CD,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-5 J Fortune 3*
2 052- INHERENT MAGIC 28 (CD,G,S) W Muir 7-9-0 J Weaver 8
3 02-0 DISTANT DYNASTY 7 (CD,BF,G,S) B Pearce 6-8-11 S Sanders 5
4 22-5 ASTON MANOR 5 R Hannon 4-8-7 W Newnes 7
5 065- LIFT BOY 42 (CD,F,G) A Moore 7-8-3 Candy Morris 6
6 00-0 TOMMY TEMPEST 8 (V,CD,G,S) R Peacock 7-8-3 P McCabe (3) 1
7 00-0 TYRIAN PURPLE 5 (B,C,D,F,G,S) T Naughton 8-8-3 T Ashley (7) 2
8 *00-6 SUPERLAO 5 (D,F,G) A Hemans (Bel) 4-7-12 J Quinn 4*

7-4 Inherent Magic, 7-2 Aston Manor, 5-1 Distant Dynasty, 6-1 Ultra Beet, Superlao, 8-1 Lift Boy

1.30 REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES
(£2,259: 7f) (10)

1 061- NORDIC COLOURS 40 (B,D) C Dondi (Bel) 5-8-13 Nino Minner 8
2 230- DEEPLY VALE 24 (D,S) G L Moore 5-8-12 A Clark 6
3 05- DRAGON GREEN 62 (G) J White 5-8-12 S Drowne (3) 1
4 600- JUSTINIANUS 73 (B,D,G,S) A Hemans (Bel) 4-8-12 A Lakeman (7) 4
5 *654- PERILOUS PLIGHT 27J (CD,F,G) W Muir 5-8-12 J Weaver 3*
6 040- RESPECTABLE JONES 30 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 10-8-12 M Wigham 5
7 150- STAR TALENT 252 (D,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-12 R Cochrane 10
8 655- THORNY BISHOP 331 (V,C,G) J Bridger 5-8-12 G Bardwell 2
9 0/0- THUNDEROUS 30J (B) J Bridger 5-8-12 J Quinn 7
10 030- DUSK IN DAYTONA 43 (D,F) C James 4-8-7 A McGlone 9

5-2 Perilous Plight, 7-2 Deeply Vale, 4-1 Dusk In Daytona, Star Talent, 8-1 Dragon *Green, 10-1 Thorny Bishop, 16-1 Justinianus*

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Murray-Smith, 11 winners from 51 runners, 21.6%; M Prescott, 16 from 75, 21.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 34 from 161, 21.1%; G Bravery, 5 from 27, 18.5%; Miss G Kelleway, 8 from 47, 17.0%; M Johnston, 32 from 189, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: J Fortune, 4 from 12, 33.3%; J Weaver, 49 from 214, 22.9%; T Ashley, 4 from 22, 18.2%; R Cochrane, 41 from 233, 17.6%; T Ives, 18 from 106, 17.0%; Mark Denaro, 3 from 18, 16.7%; J F Egan, 3 from 21, 14.3%

2.00 TALISMAN HANDICAP (£2,977: 1m 2f) (14)

1 *01-0 WET PATCH 5 (CD,F,G) R Hannon 4-10-0 Mark Denaro (7) 1*
2 004- QUEENS STROLLER 45 (G) T Wall 5-9-11 P McCabe (3) 2
3 64-1 RIVAL BID 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-11 (5ex) T Ashley (7) 3
4 01-0 LANDLORD 7 (B,CD,F,G) J Toller 4-9-9 J Weaver 5
5 20-0 ILANDRA 9 S Dow 4-9-6 W Woods 8
6 1/2- EXPLOSIVE POWER 24 (C,G) G Bravery 5-9-5 T Ives 7
7 306- YOUR MOST WELCOME 43J D ffrench Davis 5-9-0 G Carter 14
8 200- AGOER 28 C Brittain 4-8-9 M Larsen 10
9 *00-3 TOMAL 7 (F) R Ingram 4-8-8 W Newnes 13*
10 004- DOZLEM 27 (B,F) J Poulton 7-8-4 S Sanders 12
11 055- THE MESTRAL 28 M Ryan 4-8-3 G Bardwell 6
12 113- REAL MADRID 24 (V,G,S) G Enright 5-7-13 N Adams 11
13 204- SWYNFORD FLYER 23 (F,G) J A Harris 7-7-11 C Adamson (5) 9
14 000- SHODDAH 24 P Hayward 5-7-10 J Quinn 4

5-1 Rival Bid, Explosive Power, 6-1 Wet Patch, Swynford Flyer, 8-1 Real Madrid, Dozlem, 10-1 Landlord

2.30 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,867: 1m) (12)

1 ANAK-KU Miss G Kelleway 9-0 R Cochrane 5
2 BARANOV D Murray Smith 9-0 J F Egan 6
3 03-6 BLUE FLYER 2 (B) R Ingram 9-0 W Woods 12
4 FREEDOM RUN R Harris 9-0 D Batteate 10
5 *00- GENERAL HENRY 28 A Moore 9-0 Candy Morris 9*
6 000- LORD ELLANGOWAN 64 R Ingram 9-0 D Biggs 4
7 054- LOVE BIRD 62 M Johnston 9-0 J Weaver 8
8 TORMOUNT Lord Huntingdon 9-0 S Sanders 11
9 03- WELL DRAWN 24 H Candy 9-0 W Newnes 2
10 2- CREEKING 28 M Prescott 8-9 C Nutter 3
11 000- MY MOTHER'S LOCAL 27 K Cunningham-Brown 8-9 G Carter 1
12 503- TAHYA 27 C Elsey 8-9 C Rutter 7

3-1 Love Bird, 7-2 Well Drawn, 4-1 Blue Flyer, 5-1 Tormount, 6-1 Tahya, 7-1 Creeking, 12-1 Anak-Ku.

3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,656: 6f) (5)

1 200- SHONTAINE 89 (D,F,G) M Johnston 9-7 J Weaver 1
2 00-6 MAPLE BURL 7 S Dow 8-11 W Woods 5
3 004- ROWLANDSONS STUD 24 G L Moore 8-6 M Fenton 4
4 26-2 BELLS OF HOLLAND 7 W Muir 8-4 Jean-Pierre Lopez 3
5 60-4 CASTLE GOVERNOR 6 P Haslam 7-10 M Baird (5) 2

7-4 Rowlandsons Stud, 9-4 Bells Of Holland, 3-1 Shontaine, 4-1 Castle Governor, 33-1 Maple Burl.

3.30 IVANHOE HANDICAP (£2,799: 1m 5f) (10)

1 411- BROUGHTONS FORMULA 23 (B,CD,F,G) W Musson 6-10-0 P McCabe (3) 3
2 00-5 DVORAK 9 (F) R Harris 5-9-10 A Mackay 7
3 302- DODDINGTON FLYER 42 (V,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-3 R Cochrane 2
4 11-3 RED SPECTACLE 9 (BF,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-0 M Baird (5) 4
5 *02-6 IRON N GOLD 9 (BF,G) A Moore 4-8-9 S Sanders 10*
6 00-1 ERLKING 7 (B,C,G) S Mellor 6-8-8 (5ex) M Wigham 9
7 00-1 WOTTASHAMBLES 9 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 5-8-6 (5ex) J F Egan 6
8 *060- LUNAR RISK 47J (F,G) Miss B Sanders 6-8-1 G Carter 5*
9 220- WAHEM 24 (F) C Brittain 6-8-0 J Quinn 8
10 30-5 PIP'S DREAM 7 (F) M Ryan 5-8-0 G Bardwell 1

5-2 Doddington Flyer, 7-2 Broughtons Formula, 9-2 Erlking, Wottashambles, 5-1 *Red Spectacle, 12-1 Wahem, 20-1 Pip's Dream*

هكذا من الأصل

مكتبة الأهرام

Celtic stand firm in battle with bigotry

By Kevin McCarra

CELTIC yesterday engaged in a struggle that will be even more prolonged and arduous than the quest for the Bell's Scottish League premier division title. The club has committed itself to confronting the sectarianism that is interwoven with football in the west of Scotland.

A social charter, in draft form, has been issued in which Celtic pledge to carry out charitable work and oppose all forms of discrimination. A statement of worthy aims is easy to produce, but the bigoted elements in Glasgow are obdurate. The club, though, has already proved that there will be deeds as well as emollient words.

Before the Old Firm match last week, Fergus McCann, the Celtic managing director, insisted upon a minute's silence for the 66 Rangers' supporters who were killed in the Ibrox disaster 25 years ago. Attempts had been made to dissuade McCann by figures from both clubs who felt that supporters could not be trusted to respect the memory of the dead.

McCann was adamant, nonetheless, that the plan must go ahead; and if the minute's silence was not observed by every spectator, only a small minority breached it. Celtic's announcement yesterday was a demonstration that they will not let any feelings of relief over that success persuade them now to drop the entire matter.

The club is prepared to ban from its ground supporters who indulge in sectarian chants and other offensive behaviour. "If people are abusive," McCann said, "it should be possible to identify them by their seat numbers and, at the very least, prevent them from renewing their season tickets.

"We can only do so much when it comes to changing the minds of mindless individuals, but it is up to us to try. We can't ignore it and say, 'This is just how we live'."

McCann is particularly sensitive to the issue because, although born in Scotland, he lived in Canada for almost 30 years before buying Celtic in 1994. The intolerance of life in the west of Scotland clearly struck him anew.

The programme set out by Celtic, however, does not concentrate solely on behaviour within the ground, but proposes a series of initiatives. Players, for example, will visit a range of schools chosen to ensure that they meet and coach children from a variety of ethnic groups. The club's charitable work will also include organising holidays for disadvantaged Protestant and Catholic children in Northern Ireland.

Celtic's practice of flying the flag of Ireland is regarded as inflammatory in some quarters and the club was even prevented from doing so when it spent last season based at the Queen's Park ground, Hampden Park.

McCann, though, is insistent that a recognition of the club's roots in the Irish immigrant community should be regarded only as a positive step rather than a provocative gesture.

The other half of the Old Firm was engaged in more familiar business yesterday. Jardel, of Grêmio, the Brazilian striker, visited Ibrox and a £2.5 million transfer to Rangers will be concluded if he can acquire a Portuguese passport. That would remove the need for a work permit, which players from outside the European Union require.

New arrival Charnley set for ban

DUNDEE are set to lose Chic Charnley, their midfield player, for three games after he was dismissed for the twelfth time in his career on Tuesday night — just days after joining the club.

Charnley was ordered off for an elbowing offence after 67 minutes of the Tayside derby. Dundee United, who also had a player — Steven Pressley — sent off, won the match at Dens Park 2-0, thanks to two goals from Robbie Winters, to go top of the first division.

Charnley, who moved from Dumbarton for a cut-price £25,000 and scored on his debut last weekend in a 2-1 win over Hamilton, will be automatically suspended for the trip to Greenock Morton on Saturday.

He will also receive a two-match ban, effective from January 23, that will rule him out of the Tennents Scottish Cup third-round trip to Brechin or Clyde and a league game. Jim Duffy, the Dundee manager, said: "His reputation goes before him. Anything he does is scrutinised."

Wales hope Hughes's inimitable brand of aggression in attack will trouble the illustrious defenders of Italy

Hughes receives welcome back as Wales take on the Italians

By Our Sports Staff

BOBBY GOULD, the Wales football manager, has included Mark Hughes in his squad to face Italy in Terni on January 24, ending what appeared to be a brief feud between the two men. The Chelsea forward's international career looked to be over when he declined to travel to Albania for Wales's final European championship qualifier in November, but Gould made it clear yesterday that there are no ill-feelings.

"I haven't spoken to Mark and he'll find out that he's in the squad when he reads his name on Teletext," Gould said, "but, as far as I'm concerned, everything else that has happened is water under the bridge."

The 17-man squad — another name will be added before the players fly to Rome on January 21 — contains eight of the team that drew 1-1 in Tirana, including Mark Pembridge, who scored the Wales goal in that game, who has missed Sheffield Wednesday's past nine matches with a foot injury. He is expected to recover in time.

In addition to Hughes, seven of the players who were forced to withdraw from the game in Albania are named in the party. Three of them — Adrian Williams, of Reading, Kit Symons, of Manchester City, and Chris Coleman, of Blackburn Rovers — are central defenders, while the others are Barry Horne, Gary Speed, Ian Rush and Nathan Blake. Rush scored the only goal when Wales and Italy last met, in Brescia in 1988.

There is one new face, Darren Ward, the Notts County goalkeeper, who will understudy Neville Southall. "Andrew Marriott's playing for Wrexham that week and I've seen Danny Coyne at Tranmere," Gould said. "I wanted to have a look at Darren." However, Eric Young, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Gareth Taylor, of Crystal Palace, are only in the standby pool of eight, while there is no place at all for Ceri Hughes, the Luton Town midfield player.

Gould also revealed that the game had been hurriedly arranged. "I hadn't anticipated this fixture, but the Italians sent us a fax over Christmas offering the game," he said. "When I received it, I sounded out the players and they wanted the game to go ahead. In fact, when I told Barry Horne last night, his eyes lit up and that shows how much our players will value this opportunity."

Part of the deal struck with the Italians is that they will make a return visit to the Principality within the next 18 months — possibly shortly before they play England in the World Cup qualifiers. Gould also announced that his side would be meeting another Mediterranean nation in March and playing Switzerland away in April.

One problem for the Welsh manager might be another spate of withdrawals, the game coming the week before the fourth round of the FA Cup and with any Coca-Cola Cup fifth-round replays scheduled for January 25, but Gould is hopeful that his plans will not be unduly hit.

"I'm sure some managers might be reluctant to release their players before the FA Cup, but I hope they understand my position," Gould said. "It's officially an international week after all. If our game was against another side, it would be a different kettle of fish, but I think I should be given the chance to take my players to play what is one of the very best sides in the world.

"It will be a great opportunity for the players, a great platform, because you don't get much bigger than Italy; but it's just as important for me because I want to get to know the players better."

WALES SQUAD

N Southall (Everton), D Ward (Notts County), A Williams (Reading), K Symons (Manchester City), A Melville (Sunderland), S Jenkins (Huddersfield Town), M Bowen (Norwich City), D Phillips (Nottingham Forest), B Horne (Everton), M Pembridge (Sheffield Wednesday), G Speed (Leeds United), M Hughes (Chelsea), D Saunders (Galatasaray), N Blake (Bolton Wanderers), R Giggs (Manchester United), I Rush (Liverpool), C Coleman (Blackburn Rovers).

Dominant Best helps W Indies put rest in perspective

From Mel Webb in Sharjah

TWO DAYS to go, and the gap between West Indies and the other three teams in the World Cricket Masters series here is widening into a potentially embarrassing chasm. The whipping boys yesterday were Pakistan, who were tested then thoroughly bested by Best. Carlisle Best, that is, who left them battered and hanging desperately on to the ropes with a majestic 155 not out.

Pakistan have been making their first appearance in this limited-overs over-35 tournament, and have proved that even cricketing senior citizens can still have things to learn about the game. England defeated them by 65 runs in the first match of the tournament and West Indies gave them a 116-run thumping yesterday.

Zaheer Abbas and his men have managed just one victory, but, since it was over India, that will almost be consolation enough. They could even do it again when they meet in the third-place play-off match today. They may be playing only for honour, but, when these two come up against each other, honour is all that matters.

The game yesterday was cast out of the same mould as the previous five. The bowlers were little more than spear-carriers, willing and ready to beetle off when the scene-stealers with bats for rapiers swaggered onto the stage.

Not, mind you, that there was anything very rapier-like about Best's innings, which beat Graham Gooch's 144 the day before as the innings of the series. There is nothing very rapier-like about bludgeoned sixes, of which there were eight as well as five fours, into parts of the stadium that other batsmen could not reach.

Best, 36, was simply irresistible. He warmed up nicely in a friendly slugging match with Vivian Richards while they were adding 98 for the third wicket, but, when Richards had gone, bowled by Zaman, he got seriously nasty.

His partner, the diminutive Kallicharran, batted with typically impudent grace, but was left way behind by some brutal hitting by Best. The pair put on 161 in a mere 17 overs, and Pakistan had the look of piece-rate net bowlers.

Zaheer said between innings that they would be going for victory, but his words had a hollow ring. A flurry of early wickets, shared by Marshall and Moseley, had Pakistan toiling at 33 for four, and, from then, some gentle and almost patronising bowling was the main reason for Pakistan getting as close to the target as they did.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Third division: Gillingham 3 Chester 1; Scarborough 1 Barnet 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Southern section: Fulham 1 Bristol Rovers 2 (aet; score after 90 minutes 1-1; Bristol Rovers win on the golden goal rule); Hereford 1 Northampton 0; Peterborough 3 Colchester 2. Shrewsbury 4 Brighton 2. Northern section: Blackpool 0 Chesterfield 1; Rotherham 3 Lincoln 1; York 1 Notts County 0.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kettering 2 Northwich 2.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Second round replay: Brechin 0 Clyde 0 (Abandoned after 95min).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Partick Thistle 0 Falkirk 3; Raith Rovers 1 Celtic 3. First division: Clydebank 1 Airdrie 1 Dundee 0 Dundee United 2; St Johnstone 6 Greenock Morton 1. Postponed: Dumbarton v Dunfermline. Second division: Forfar 0 East Fife 2. Postponed: Ayr v Clyde. Third division: Cowdenbeath 1 East Stirling 4. Postponed: Albion Rovers v Caledonian Thistle; Brechin v Alloa.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bridgnorth 3 Evesham 1; Rothwell 2 Bedworth 2. Dr Martens Cup: Second round replay: Trowbridge 2 Bashley 1. Third round: Baldock 0 King's Lynn 2; Cheltenham 3 Gresley 3.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 1 St Albans 1. First division: Basingstoke 0 Abingdon Town 0. Carlton Cup: Second round: Walton and Hersham 1 Kingstonian 3. Third round: Aldershot Town 2 Bognor Regis 2 (Aldershot win 5-3 on pens); Tooting and Mitcham 1 Sutton United 3. Carlton Trophy: Third round: Ware 3 Hemel Hempstead 1 (aet); Wivenhoe 5 Chalfont St Peter 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 1 Nottingham Forest 1; Everton 0 Manchester Utd 1. Second division: Barnsley 1 Coventry 2; Grimsby 1 Sunderland 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Colwyn Bay 0 Barrow 1; Emley 0 Chorley 3. President's Cup: First round: Leek 2 Hyde 2; Marine 2 Witton 0. Unifilla Cup: Second round replay: Curzon Ashton 0 Ashton 2.

IRISH LEAGUE: Coca-Cola Cup: First round, first leg: Ballyclare 2 Portadown 1; Coleraine 2 Bangor 0; Distillery 0 Linfield 4; Omagh 0 Cliftonville 1. Postponed: Ballymena v Crusaders; Larne v Ards; Newry v Glentoran. First round, second leg: Glenavon 3 Carrick 0 (agg: 6-1).

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division Cup: Quarter-finals: Stourport 2 Wednesfield 2. Postponed: Westfields v Pelsall Villa.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Farnham 1 Westfield 0. Postponed: Merstham v Godalming and Guildford; Viking Sports v Bedfont.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Down 1 Paulton 4. Postponed: Bristol Manor Farm v Chippenham.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Woodbridge 2 Walton 0. Postponed: Tiptree v Felixstowe.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover 0 Wimborne 2. Postponed: Bournemouth v Eastleigh; Swanage and Herston v Christchurch. Cup: Thatcham 1 Brockenhurst 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade 2 Hatfield 0. O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Cup: Third round, first leg: Toddington 4 Harpenden 0.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle Town 2 Eastwood Hanley 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Peacehaven and Telscombe 5 Horsham YMCA 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Thamesmead 2 Beckenham 2.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Blackburn 0 Tranmere 2.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Luton (at Harrow Borough FC, 7.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division (7.0): Leeds v Sheffield Utd (at Halifax Town FC); Liverpool v Stoke (at Southport FC).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Dundalk v Drogheda (7.45).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Bemerton Heath.

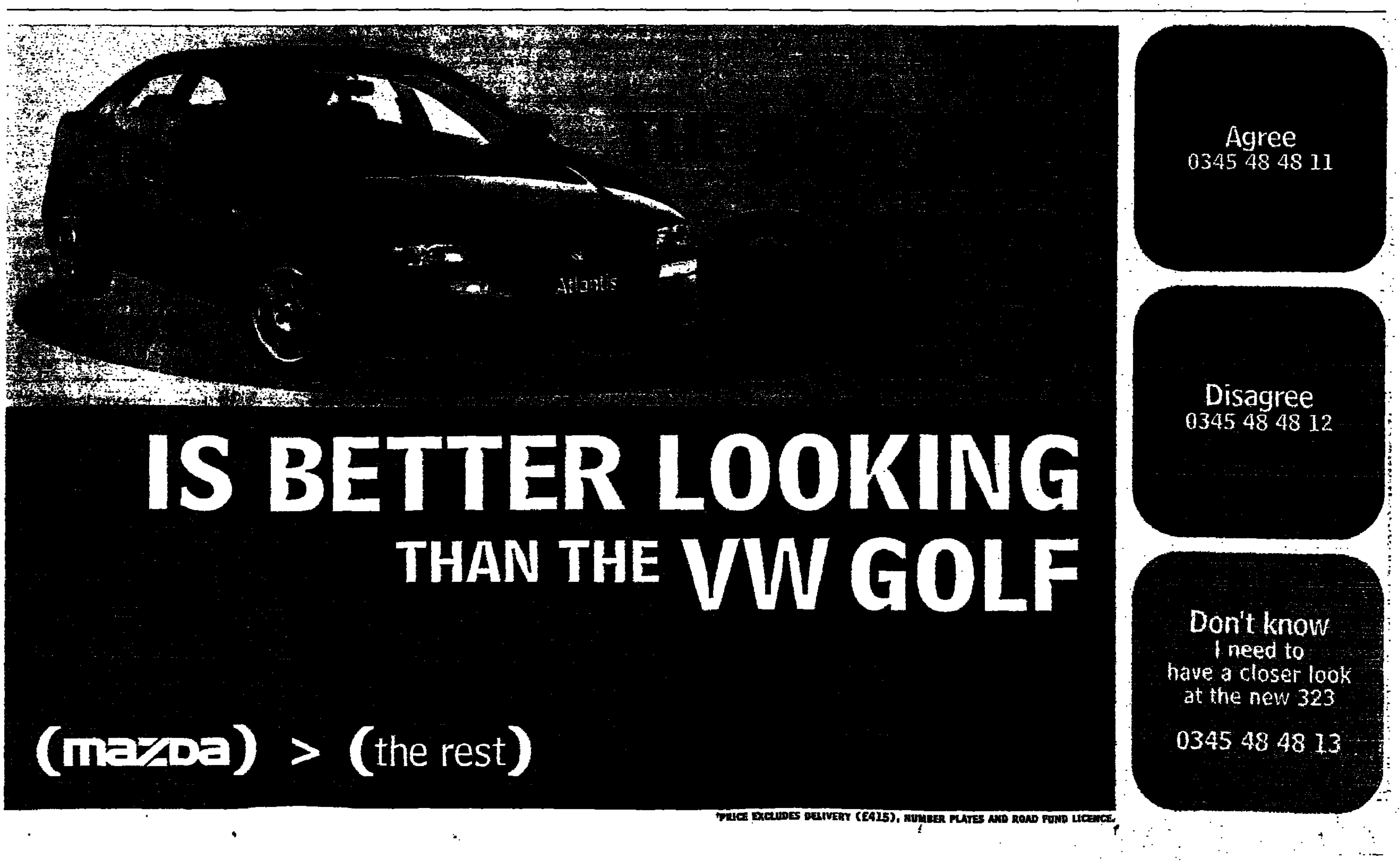
FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Woking v West Ham.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Northumberland v West Yorkshire (at Morpeth Town, 6.45). London Pear Trophy: Newham v Barking (McMillan Stadium, 6.0). Suffolk Girls under-16 final: Sudbury Upper v Bungay High School (Ipswich, 1.30).

OTHER SPORT

TABLE TENNIS: Olympic qualifying tournament (Nynex Arena, Manchester).

SQUASH: QM national championships (Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham).



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Selectors leave out Logan but ignore calls for return of Chalmers

Scotland stand by Townsend against Ireland

By Mark Souster

THE Scotland rugby union selectors have stayed loyal to the bulk of the team that lost to Italy last weekend for the first match in the five nations' championship, against Ireland in Dublin on Saturday week. Kenny Logan, who is dropped after winning 21 caps, is the main casualty from the defeat in Rieti, while the clarion call for the return of Craig Chalmers has been resisted. The selectors can only hope that their loyalty is not misplaced, and that those in the side who have had little competitive rugby recently, mainly because of injury, will be ready.

There is one other enforced change, the recall of Ian Smith, of Gloucester, after the injury to Stuart Reid, and one change that was anticipated, the naming of Doddie Weir at lock in place of Scott Murray. Murray, who, like Weir, can play in the back row, is among the replacements.

After accepting that playing Italy without a recognised goalkicker was a mistake, one that the selectors felt cost them the chance of victory, Scotland have picked Michael Dods, the best person available in the circumstances. However, where to accommodate the Northampton player was the subject of considerable discussion during a lengthy selection meeting on Monday night.

Dods, who, along with Townsend, stood out for Northampton against Bath in the Pilkington Cup match before Christmas, was almost picked at full back, where Rowen Shepherd has been given another chance. Having performed well on the right wing against Western Samoa in the autumn, he now switches across to displace Logan, who half expected his demise. Logan has lost some of his ebullience and, according to Jim Telfer, the chairman of selectors, needs to regain his appetite for the game.

Telfer hinted that the media attention enjoyed by the Stirling County player, who, like Chalmers, writes a high-profile newspaper column and is constantly in demand for public appearances, had turned his head; however, he denied that it was a factor in either players' absence from the side.

Chalmers's outspokenness has not gone down well at Murrayfield, where he is regarded as a shop steward of the squad. In retaining, in his place, Gregor Townsend at stand-off half, alongside Bryan Redpath, Telfer said that the half backs should be given a chance to show their flair, something that they were not able to do against Italy because of the poor quality of possession.

Much will depend on Townsend as a playmaker. He will have the advantage of a solid, if unspectacular, midfield beside him, and wings and a full back who have ability and pace.

Telfer lauded the defensive qualities of the back division in general, and Scott Hastings in particular. Hastings was described as the best defensive outside centre in Scotland. He is there because, against Ireland at Murrayfield and France in Paris last February, Scotland leaked two tries through the outside centre channel. "He is a good influence in organising defence, and the responsibility of outside centre is far greater than any other position in the back division," Telfer said.

Weir's presence was inevitable to counter the threat of Neil Francis in the lineout. Weir has been distracted recently by his impending move to Newcastle and all that it implies in terms of contracts for club and country. He went on as a replacement against Italy and should respond to the challenge posed by Ireland. Damian Cronin and Peter Walton were considered, but discounted because of their lack of match fitness after injury.

SCOTLAND XV

R Shepherd (Melrose); C Joiner (Melrose), S Hastings (Watsonians), I Jardine (Stirling County), M Dods (Northampton); G Townsend (Northampton), B Redpath (Melrose); D Hilton (Bath), K McKenzie (Stirling County), P Wright (Boroughmuir), I Smith (Gloucester), S Campbell (Dundee HSFP), G Weir (Melrose), R Wainwright (Watsonians), E Peters (Bath). Replacements: K Logan (Stirling County), C Chalmers (Melrose), D Patterson (West Hartlepool), S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), P Burnell (London Scottish), J Hay (Hawick).
Referee: B Campsall (England)

Scotland will be relying on the defensive qualities of Hastings in Dublin

Victorious Exiles have nowhere left to roam

Scottish Exiles 34
South of Scotland 9

By Mark Souster

IF THIS is the end of the Scottish inter-district rugby union championship, at least in its present form, and thus the final curtain for the Scottish Exiles, then at least they departed with the perfect riposte to those who have engineered their demise. The Exiles duly retained the much-maligned championship by convincingly beating the South of Scotland at Richmond yesterday.

The grand plan for the future of Scottish rugby, both domestically and in Europe, does not include the Exiles, who, since their creation in the early 1980s, have been an invaluable source of talent for Scotland. Jim Telfer, the Scottish Rugby Union's director of rugby, insists that there must be a future for them, but as yet cannot quite see how. Nor can Alistair McHarg, their manager, who is far more pessimistic. With no shop window, the players who qualify for Scotland will be lost.

Telfer, who was at Richmond, said: "I don't know what the answer is, but I would like to think there will still be some contribution they could make. The Exiles are an integral part of the Scottish set-up."

The game, which should have been a showpiece finale, was undermined by withdrawals from both camps, which sums up just how little a priority the championship is for players, despite being the likely route into Europe and the Scotland team. Still, there were a few internationals on view, with Hilton, Peters, Walton and Cronin, for the Exiles, opposing the likes of Joiner, Weir and Hay.

Laing and Welsh traded penalty goals in the first quarter before Dixon scored the first of his two tries for the Exiles after a break by Wynn. Laing converted. The South relied heavily on Weir for possession at the front of the lineout and he did not disappoint, but, for the most part, they were fighting a rearguard action.

Leading 10-6 at half-time, the Exiles scored three more tries in the second half, the first by Aaron James, the Wasps centre, who linked well with his forwards. Patterson scampered over for the next and Dixon added his second after Wynn again had made the initial break.

The victory was the Exiles' eighth in a row spanning two seasons. Telfer presented the cup to Eric Peters, but the celebrations were understandably a little flat.

SCORERS: Scottish Exiles: Tries: Dixon (2), James, Patterson. Conversions: Laing (4). Penalty goals: Laing (2). South: Penalty goals: Welsh (3).
SCOTTISH EXILES: A Kerr (Moseley), M Kemp (London Scottish), I Wynn (Orrell), A James (Wasps), G Smith (Orrell); S Laing (Instonians), D Patterson (West Hartlepool); D Hilton (Bath), L Mair (London Scottish), M Stewart (Blackheath), P Walton (Newcastle), D Cronin (Bourges), K Stewart (Cardiff), I Dixon (Bristol), E Peters (Bath, captain). Mair replaced by D McGavin (London Scottish, 70min).
SOUTH: G Aitchinson (Kelso); C Joiner (Melrose), S Nichol (Selkirk), D Grant (Hawick), K Suddon (Hawick); S Welsh (Hawick), K Reid (Hawick); G Isaac (Gala), J Hay (Hawick), S McColm (Selkirk), S Bennet (Kelso), R Brown (Melrose), G Weir (Melrose), K Armstrong (Jed-Forest), R Kirkpatrick (Jed-Forest, captain). Brown replaced by I Elliot (Hawick, 28min).
Referee: J Fleming (Scotland).

Lord moves to protect the insecure roots of paid game

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

A NATIONWIDE survey of rugby union clubs has found a widespread desire to retain amateurism in the game, it will emerge today. In advance of the special general meeting of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in Birmingham on Sunday, which will decide the new chairman of the RFU's executive committee and the degree of support for open rugby, the comprehensive study had discovered anger among the grass-roots.

Clubs were upset by the lack of consultation before the decision of the International Rugby Football Board, last August, to accept professionalism and a strong wish to protect the amateur game.

The survey has been conducted by Michael Lord, the senior Conservative MP and a Cambridge Blue. A fierce opponent of professionalism, Lord wrote to 1,700 clubs in England and received a good response. He is to unveil the results at a press conference at Westminster today.

Lord is expected to claim that the survey backs his view that the RFU should continue to run the amateur game in England, with the professionals breaking away and forming their own union.

The special meeting, to which all clubs have been invited, will make key decisions on the game's future. It will vote on a motion tabled by Somerset calling for amateurism to be safeguarded.

Lord's survey, based on hundreds of replies from club officials, is understood to have found that junior clubs across the country felt they had been taken for granted and their future not given proper consideration.

Lord, who scored two tries as a centre in the University match of 1960, began the survey after condemning professionalism and being challenged to "do something about it".

His study has uncovered fears that clubs will poach players, that they will be unable to afford to pay players, that players will be unable to have a career and at the same time play top-class rugby, and the belief that volunteers who keep the junior game going will be reluctant to work in order to pay the players.

Gay expects transfer to promote England prospects

By Our Sports Staff

RICHARD GAY, the former England rugby league full back, believes that his move to Castleford will promote his international career. The player, who yesterday signed a three-year deal with the club, said: "I really think that the move will give me a chance of international honours. I did not think Hull were going anywhere.

"John Joyner and Castleford have given me that opportunity to progress my career. Hopefully, my goals will include achieving international honours."

Gay, 26, who holds two England caps, believes that his new side will be a force in the Super League this summer. "I would say that Castleford will go very well," he said. "They have a few players injured at present but I am sure we will be a force to be reckoned with when the season starts."

He joined Hull in 1989 from Hull Boys A R L. In 184 appearances for the club, he scored 66 tries, mainly from full back. This season, he has scored ten tries from 13 appearances but has not played since injuring a hamstring before Christmas.

Gay is ineligible to play for Castleford's first team this season because his signing took place after the league and Challenge Cup deadlines.

John Joyner, the coach, said: "Richard is a good attacking full back with plenty of pace. It is a shame that he cannot start with us this term but, while we hope for a cup run, the Super League is now league priority. Richard increases my options, but I am well aware that our squad still needs further strengthening."

☐ Bradford Bulls have put Roger Simpson, their long-serving back, up for sale at £60,000. The decision came after a breakdown in talks between the club and the player regarding his future at Odsal Stadium, where he also works as a groundsman.

The Bulls intend to extend players' contracts to a full-time basis for the Super League, which begins in March. Simpson, 28, joined Bradford from Moldgreen, the amateur side, almost 11 years ago. He was selected for the Great Britain tour to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in 1990 and played against France last year.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 92 Toronto 91; Atlanta 104 Sacramento 88, New York 98 Boston 93; Orlando 92 New Jersey 84, San Antonio 88 Houston 82; Indiana 91 Dallas 84; Seattle 97 Milwaukee 92 LA Clippers 105 Phoenix 100; Golden State 109 Vancouver 103; LA Lakers 106 Minnesota 104

CRESTA RUN

ESCALANTE CUP: 1, C Mumenthaler (Switz) 2min 03.26sec; 2, C Kopp (Switz) 2 04 03. 3, S Regger (Ger) 2:04 67.

CRICKET

SYDNEY: Tour match (one-day): West Indians 243-5 (R I Holder 80 not out, S C Williams 57). Australia A 245-4 (G S Blewett 85, S R Waugh 56). Australia A won by 6 wkts
HARARE: Tour match (final day of three): England Under-19 278 and 204-7dec (M Wood 79, D Sales 43); Mashonaland Under-21 143 and 80-4. Match drawn
SHARJAH: World Cricket Masters: West Indies XI 295-3 (45 overs, C Best 155 not out, A Kallicharran 56 not out, I V A Richards 53); Pakistan XI 179-6 (Aftab Baloch 51 not out). West Indies won by 116 runs.

FOOTBALL

Anglo-Italian Cup

Semi-final

FOGGIA (0) 0 CESENA (0) 0
(aet. Cesena won 2-1 on pens)

SPANISH CUP: Third round, first leg: Atletico Madrid 1 Real Betis 1.
PORTUGUESE CUP: Fifth round: Sporting Lisbon 2 Boavista 1; Academica 2 Maritimo 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL). Colorado 3 Boston 0; New Jersey 4 St Louis 2; NY Islanders 3 Chicago 3; Philadelphia 2 Anaheim 2; Hartford 5 Edmonton 1.

MOTOR RALLYING

GRANADA TO DAKAR RALLY: Tenth stage (El Mreiti to Tichit): Cars: 1, A Vatanen (Fin, Citroen) 6hr 01min 18sec; 2, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 2min 11sec; 3, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 4:35; 4, P Lartigue (Fr, Citroen) at 6:36; 5, P Wambergue (Fr, Citroen) 16:28. Motorcycles: 1, D Trolli (It, Cagiva) 7hr 14min 28sec; 2, E Orioli (It, Yamaha) at 1min 22sec; 3, C Esquirol (Fr, Cagiva) at 2:09; 4, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) at 2:14; 5, C Sotelo (Sp, KTM) at 21:24. Overall positions: Cars: 1, Lartigue 44hr 19min 00sec; 2, Wambergue at 54min 32sec; 3, Masuoka at 1hr 39min 50sec; 4, Vatanen at 1:42:28; 5, Fontenay at 2:04:10. Motorcycles: 1, Orioli 49:15.40; 2, Arcarons at 42min 34sec; 3, Trolli at 51:23; 4, Esquirol at 3hr 21min 43sec; 5, Sotelo at 3:52:24

NORDIC SKIING

STRBSKE PLESO, Slovakia: Cross country: World Cup: Men (50km): 1, V Smirnov (Kaz) 1hr 58min 14 9sec; 2, B Daehlie (Nor) 1:58:57.1; 3, N Jonsson (Swe) 1:57:15.4; 4, T Mogren (Swe) 1:57:45 4; 5, J Muehlegg (Ger) 1:57:56.9; 6, S Fauner (It) 1:58:21 8. World Cup positions: 1, Daehlie 660pts; 2, Smirnov 508; 3, Fauner 356; 4, T Alsgaard (Nor) 250; 5, A Prokurorov (Russ) 233; 6, J Isometsa (Fin) 221. Women (30km): 1, M di Centa (It) 1hr 15min 14sec; 2, E Vaelbe (Russ) 1:16:00.8; 3, S Belmondo (It) 1:16:01.8; 4, L Egorova (Russ) 1:17:09.0; 5, M Mikkelsplass (Nor) 1:17:23.8; 6, M Theurie (Austria) 1:17:52.8. World Cup positions: equal 1, Vaelbe and Egorova 540; 3, N Gavrilyuk (Russ) 329; 4, Belmondo 321; 5, L Lazutina (Russ) 317; 6, Di Centa 295.

REAL TENNIS

QUEENS CLUB: BNB Resources British professional doubles championship (GB unless stated): Semi-finals: C Bray and M Gooding bt P Tabley (Aus) and R Gunn 6-0, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; N Wood and A Phillips bt L Deuchar (Aus) and J Howell 6-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-5. Final: Bray and Gooding bt Wood and Phillips 6-2, 0-6, 6-2, 6-1.

RIFLE SHOOTING

TRENTHAM: New Zealand championships: Queen's prize (300 yards): equal 1, C Mallett (LMRA) and G Ballinger (NZ) 50.09pts. Other British: N Ball 50.8, N Brasier 50.5, J Scoble 50.3. Armada Cup (300 yards aggregate): 1, K Meade (NZ) 100 16, 5 Ball 100.14. 800 yards belt series: equal 1, G Cann (LMRA) and G Ballinger (NZ) 50 10. Ball 50.7, P Coley 50.7, S Clark 50 5, R Aitken 50.5, R Betts 50.5. 900 yards: 1, R Mayston (NZ) 50.9; 11, Ball 50.7.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Chorley 40 Highfield 14

RUGBY UNION

WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Pool A: Pontypool 24 Cross Keys 18. Postponed: Abercynon v Blaina. Pool B: Llandovery 18 Dunvant 60; Tenby Utd 12 Narberth 30. Pool C: South Wales Police 30 Cardiff Institute 15. Postponed: Caerphilly v Llanharan. Pool D: Maesteg 30 Tondu 15; Ystradgynlais 27 Bonymaen 18.

SQUASH

SSL CUP: First round: Bromley Town 1 Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 2; Broxbourne 2 Reebok Nottingham 1; Duffield 0 ICL Lion Harts 3; Pontefract 0 Jim Hall Sports Northern 3; Sigma Strings Swansea 1 Ogmore Valley Dragons 2; Lexden 1 Phillips Windows Chichester 2; Cannons Club bye; Barnham Broom bye.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro/African Zone: Group three: Ireland 3 Cyprus 0 (S Barron bt A Morfiadakis 6-2, 6-1, O Casey bt A Papamichael 6-1, 6-4; Casey and E Collins bt Morfiadakis and D Leondis 5-2 ret); Monaco 2 Greece 1; Moldova 2 Cyprus 1; Zambia 3 Djibouti 0; Cameroon 2 Estonia 1; Bulgaria 3 Botswana 0; Togo 3 Congo 0.
MELBOURNE: Men's tournament: First round: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt R Krajicek (Hol) 6-3, 6-4; J Courier (US) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; A Agassi (US) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-7, 7-6; M Chang (US) bt S Edberg (Swe) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4
AUCKLAND: Men's tournament: Second round: J Novak (Cz) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-2, 6-3; G Forget (Fr) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; M Washington (US) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; J Yzaga (Peru) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-5, 6-4.
SYDNEY: International tournament: Men: First round: S Draper (Aus) bt B Black (Zim) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; P McEnroe (US) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Second round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; M Woodforde (Aus) bt T Henman (GB) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 2-6, 6-2, 7-6; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 6-4; T Martin (US) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; R Fromberg (Aus) bt P McEnroe (US) 6-4, 6-1, S Draper (Aus) bt R Furlan (It) 6-1, 7-5; G Rusedski (GB) bt C Arriens (Ger) 6-0, 6-0. Women: Second round: M Seles (US) bt D Monami (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-4, 6-2; M de Swardt (SA) bt A Frazier (US) 6-3, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-2.
HOBART: Women's tournament: Second round: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt K Godridge (Aus) 7-5, 6-2; J Wiesner (Austria) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 7-5, 6-4; M Endo (Japan) bt L Ghirardi-Rubbi (Fr) 6-3, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £246.25, 23 £9 75. Four draws: £1.00. Ten homes: £37.45. Five aways (paid on four correct) £83.55.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £73.35, 23 £3 45. Ten homes: £48.90. Five aways: £562 00.
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £26 60, 23 £0.80 (two dividends only). Easy six £49 00. Four draws: £1 60. Eight homes: £8.30. Four aways (paid on one correct) £1.10. Goals galore (paid on 161 goals) £2.05. Lucky numbers: 27 18 36 11 4 33.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	25	90	good	powder	fair	sun	-2	10/1
(Excellent skiing after fresh snowfall; 19 of 21 lifts open)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	75	115	good	varied	good	fine	-1	8/1
(Good snowcover in all areas but very windy)								
St Anton	15	160	fair	heavy	worn	fine	1	8/1
(Pistes showing signs of wear; some afternoon slush)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	105	130	good	varied	good	cloud	0	7/1
(Good snow and skiing above 1,500 metres; no queues)								
Chamonix	25	215	good	varied	fair	wind	0	6/1
(Highest runs closed by strong winds; skiing still good)								
Val Thorens	80	120	fair	varied	fair	snow	-1	10/1
(Mixed conditions with hard-packed snow, ice and powder)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	60	270	good	powder	good	snow	1	10/1
(Continuous snowfall; excellent snow but poor visibility)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	40	50	fair	varied	some	fine	0	8/1
(All 16 lifts open by noon after high winds in morning)								
C Montana	10	120	worn	varied	closed	cloud	5	7/1
(Pistes below 2,000 metres worn with bare patches)								
Verbier	85	120	fair	heavy	some	cloud	0	7/1
(Enjoyable moguls up top; 25 of 38 lifts open)								
Zermatt	10	120	fair	varied	art	snow	2	7/1
(Wind exposing many icy patches; 16 of 36 lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

If you know that you can give your partner a ruff, when you do so, you should indicate which suit you would like him to return. The standard agreement is that, if you play a high card in the suit that partner is ruffing, you would like a return in the higher ranking of the other two suits (trumps are excluded) and vice versa. However, sometimes, a player giving a ruff is unsure which suit to request. Have a look at how the player getting the ruff helped his partner on the hand below:

Dealer North **Love all** **Pairs**

North:
♠ Q 8 7 4
♥ 10
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ K Q 7 5

West:
♠ 9 6
♥ 9 7 5
♦ K Q
♣ A 9 8 6 4 2

East:
♠ 3 2
♥ A K 8 6 4 2
♦ 10 9 7 4 2
♣ —

South:
♠ A K J 10 5
♥ Q J 3
♦ J 5
♣ J 10 3

Contract: Four Spades by South **Lead: Ace of Clubs**

South arrived in Four Spades after North had opened One Diamond and East had overcalled Two Hearts (weak), supported to the three level by West. East - West were Nilson and Hallberg, the Sweden international pair. West hit on the imaginative lead of the ace of clubs. What should East discard on this trick?

East found the excellent play of the king of hearts. East could see that, if West had the queen of hearts, East could put him in with a heart to get a second club ruff; but, if West held the queen of hearts, he would be nervous of playing a high club on the second round of the suit, in case East underled the ace of hearts and enabled South to score the king. By discarding the king of hearts, East made it clear to West that he could request a heart return if he had the queen. If East had had A K Q of hearts, he would have discarded the queen so that West could ask for a heart return holding the jack.

Good play, to no avail. As West could not even beat dummy's ten of hearts, there was never any danger of an accident. He continued with the two of clubs at trick two and East - West held the contract to ten tricks, like everyone else.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MUTASE
a. A Muslim law
b. An enzyme
c. An old Burmese coin

HAMAMELIS
a. Hornet's "honey"
b. A tree-nymph
c. A yellow shrub

NIPPY
a. A lobster
b. A waitress
c. A pickpocket

HEVEA
a. A rubber tree
b. An equine fever
c. The Spartan greave

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Hastings wrap-up

I conclude my coverage of the Hastings Centenary tournament with another win by grandmaster Tony Miles. His combative style always ensures that games involving him will be full of interest, whatever the result.

In this match, Julian Hodgson, the former British champion, attempts to cling to the gambit pawn in the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

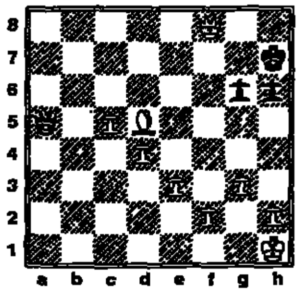
Thwarted in this initial ambition, he consoles himself with the creation of two connected passed pawns on the queen's flank, but White's overall control of terrain in the centre leads to the win of a pawn and a convincing victory, while Black's passed pawn remain in a state of blockade.

White: Tony Miles
Black: Julian Hodgson
Hastings Premier
January 1996

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	c6
3	c4	dxc4
4	e3	b5
5	a4	e6
6	axb5	cxb5
7	b3	Bb4+
8	Bd2	Bxd2+
9	Nbxd2	a5
10	bxc4	b4
11	Ne5	Nf6
12	Qa4+	Nfd7
13	c5	0-0
14	Nec4	Nf6
15	Be2	Nd5
16	Bf3	Bd7
17	Qc2	Bb5
18	Nd6	Ba6
19	N2c4	Nc6
20	0-0	Qc7
21	Rfc1	Bxc4
22	Nxc4	Nce7
23	Qb3	Ra7
24	g3	Rb8
25	Kg2	h6
26	Rc2	Nc3
27	Rxa5	Rxa5
28	Nxa5	Qxa5
29	Rxc3	bxc3
30	Qxb8+	Kh7
31	Qb7	f5
32	Qxe7	c2
33	Qxe6	c1Q
34	Qxf5+	g6
35	Qf7+	Kh8
36	Qf8+	Kh7
37	Bd5	Qh1+
38	Kxh1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times chess book

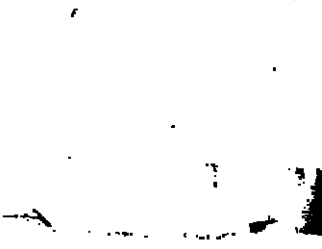
Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Gufeld — Plaskett, Hastings Premier, 1986. James Plaskett is one of Great Britain's most enterprising grandmasters, but here, he is on the receiving end of a combination from Eduard Gufeld, the well-known chess grandmaster and raconteur. White to play and win.

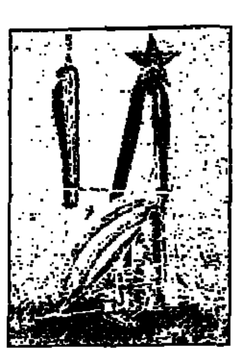


Solution on page 42

Champions' prize in the hands of pot luck

BRYANT'S EYE

Never mind the game, what did you make of the trophy? A dedicated rugby supporter who followed every kick and spit of the the Heineken Cup match last weekend between Cardiff and Toulouse just could not believe his eyes. "Did you see that?" he asked, as Emile N'Tamack, the Toulouse captain, hauled the trophy into the air to celebrate victory. "It's the most bizarre thing I've ever seen. What *kind of a cup is that?*" Well, apparently it is the kind of cup that is worth £30,000, weighs in at seven kilograms and stands 50 centimetres high. Somewhere in the design are to be found a rugby ball, goalposts, a star or two from the European Union flag and a strong dose of the Heineken logo.


Heineken Cup: greeted with disbelieving eyes

Would you, though, want it on your mantelpiece? Probably not, for the world of sporting cups, trophies, shields and medals is a strange, glittering and, all too often, ghastly one. *I blame the Victorians. A century* and more ago, they were making desperate efforts to ring-fence their concept of the gentleman amateur. By mid-Victorian times, athletic contests were *established on the* programme of almost every town and village festival and celebration. Every event advertised prizes to pull in the contestants, and the only way to cope with this within the amateur ethos was to replace them with prizes that were *purely honorary — cups, shields* and medals.

One of the curiosities of 19th-century trophies is that, whatever they looked like, they were almost always known as "cups", but there was often nothing that could, even in theory, hold a liquid. In fact, these "cups" were really free-standing and often ornate sculptures. Early commentators, particularly on athletics, *were disturbed when* these cups became the targets of "pot-hunters", and scandalised when the hard-won *amateur prizes started* turning up in pawnbrokers.

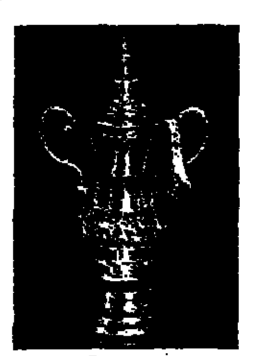
The London Athletic Club went as far as to *introduce small golden* shields for watch chains as prizes, stating that they would be attractive to even the "most sordid of pot-hunters" — and proba*bly in the hope that such delicate* trophies would not end up in the pawn shops. A surprising number of sporting trophies have, though, sadly ended up in thieves' kitchens — so *many have been stolen that it almost* ranks as a sport in itself.

The original English FA Cup, once described as a "modest silver bauble", was snatched from a shop window in 1895 and never recovered. *There was quite an argument* about whether it should be replaced by something far grander, but, in the event, the FA decided on an exact replica, even down to the names *engraved upon it.*

The Ascot Gold Cup vanished in 1907 from the Royal Enclosure while King Edward VII was in attendance, and it, too, was never seen again.

The Lambton Gold Cup, which was awarded in 1924 on the spin of a coin after a dead heat, disappeared in 1941. The Grand National Cup followed it in 1951 and the solid gold *Derby Cup in 1955. The Schweppes* Gold Trophy, a solid gold statuette of a horse and jockey, galloped into the unknown in 1963, and the Queen's Trophy, awarded for Ascot's King *George VI and Queen Elizabeth* Stakes, followed it in 1977.

The Rugby League Cup, an elaborately embossed trophy standing 2ft 6in high, went missing from a Bradford hotel in 1970. It was found 20 years later by a motorist who *stopped by a roadside to answer a call* of nature. Most famous of all, of course, is the small, elegant, golden Jules Rimet Trophy, the football world cup, which was stolen in *March 1966 and found* just a week later by a dog called Pickles. Perhaps the designers of the Heineken Cup intended it to be so hideous to discourage potential thieves.


FA Cup: retained its classical look

Top sportsmen often betray a healthy indifference to the baubles of their victories. They are as likely to throw them into the back of a drawer as to dust and *polish them every day.* The work of art for them is the victory, not the silver-plated souvenir.

Ron Clarke, the multi-world record-breaking runner, who frustratingly missed out on winning an Olympic gold medal, tells a wonderful story *about Emile Zatopek, who won four.* Clarke had visited the old Czech champion while racing in Prague. As he was leaving at the airport, Zatopek pressed a small package into his *hand with the instruction that he was* not to open it until he had left the country. Clarke opened the parcel after take-off. Inside was one of Zatopek's 10,000 metre Olympic golds, with a simple note to the man "who really deserved it".

The Olympics have so far avoided allowing the names of sponsors to creep on to their medals, but many cups and trophies exist primarily as a vehicle to push the image of the sponsor or patron — particularly, as with the Heineken European Cup, when the event is televised.

Sport, though, is nothing if not unpredictable. At a glittering exibition of trophies, called Sporting Glory, at the Victoria and Albert Museum a couple of years ago, could be found a life-size sculpture of an eagle made in black *marble. It was a* special commission ordered by Adolf Hitler to celebrate the anticipated triumph of the *leading German 100* metre backstroke swimmer at the European championships in Magdeburg in 1934.

The trouble was that the German *did not win. This Third Reich* example of the trophy-maker's art ended up on the mantelpiece of one John Besford, a backstroke swimmer from Newcastle.

JOHN BRYANT

Del Boy insists that he is back on the straight and narrow

Andrew Longmore on how the 'new Jonah Barrington' of squash hit the wall before bouncing back

Recent research has claimed that squash is the second most demanding sport after boxing. The news will not come as a surprise to Del Harris, whose battered career could return neatly to square one at the QM national championships in Birmingham this week, nor to those who watched in despair as Harris, with the same calculated independence that characterises his squash, set about vandalising the future so neatly laid out before him.

Harris was national champion for the first time eight years ago when he was 18 and such a prodigious talent that the inevitable epithet, "the next Jonah Barrington", was more a statement of fact than an article of faith. Harris was champion at every level from under-12, played the professional Sunshine Circuit in South Africa when he was 15 and won the Drysdale, the equivalent of the Wimbledon junior championship, four *times in a row.* It seemed just a matter of time before the son of a professional footballer from Dedham, in Constable country, became world champion.

*Then a funny thing hap*pened. The next Jonah disintegrated and was reformed as Del Boy, the hard-drinking, hard-partying, couldn't-give-a-monkey's, Essex lad. Squash? Who needs it? Having belatedly discovered life outside his four walls, Del Boy wanted to reclaim all those lost closing times; and he did so with the vengeance of deprived youth.

What started as a slipped disc in the back, the first serious injury of his career, turned rapidly into a ruptured mind and a haemorrhaged career. Fitness went, discipline evaporated and a spiral of defeat, disappointment and self-perceived failure was triggered by a headlong dash for the traditional pleasures of the young and eligible. He also suffered a bout of Bell's Palsy, a viral infection, that paralysed half of his face for three weeks.

"I was still playing," Harris said, "but I was just going through the motions. If any*one had come along at that* time and offered me something else, I would have taken it. I'd had enough." By Christmas 1992, Harris's athletic 6ft 2in frame had ballooned to 15 stone, earning him the nickname Mr Blobby at the Lexden Squash Club, his home base, and his world ranking had sunk to the low 30s. His friends tried to counsel him, without success.

"He is very single-minded and he just wouldn't listen," Dave Clarke, the club pro and an old mentor, said. "He had to work it out for himself." Harris cannot recall the exact moment that he managed the calculation. Having to borrow money off his parents, having to qualify for tournaments for the first time since he was 17, the stark realisation that he was trained to do nothing else. All pointed the way back. His obstinacy and determination, forces of destruction in his dark days, did the rest.

"It wasn't easy because, though I was hitting the ball well, *I had just forgotten how* to win," he said. "It was very frustrating. If I'd have lost a couple of matches along the way, I could have packed it *in." Reaching two quarter*-finals early in 1993 gave Harris the encouragement to train harder than ever through the summer and his confidence *returned slowly with his fit*ness. Looking back now, Harris's strong face and measured tones betray a mixture of confusion and puritanical *embarrassment.*

"I should have taken a break from squash, but I didn't want my ranking to drop," he said. "At the time, I was under quite a *lot of pressure* because everyone was looking to me to be the next world champion. I felt that most when I began to fail. That was when all the *expectations started to hit* home and I thought. 'Hey, I'm a failure.'

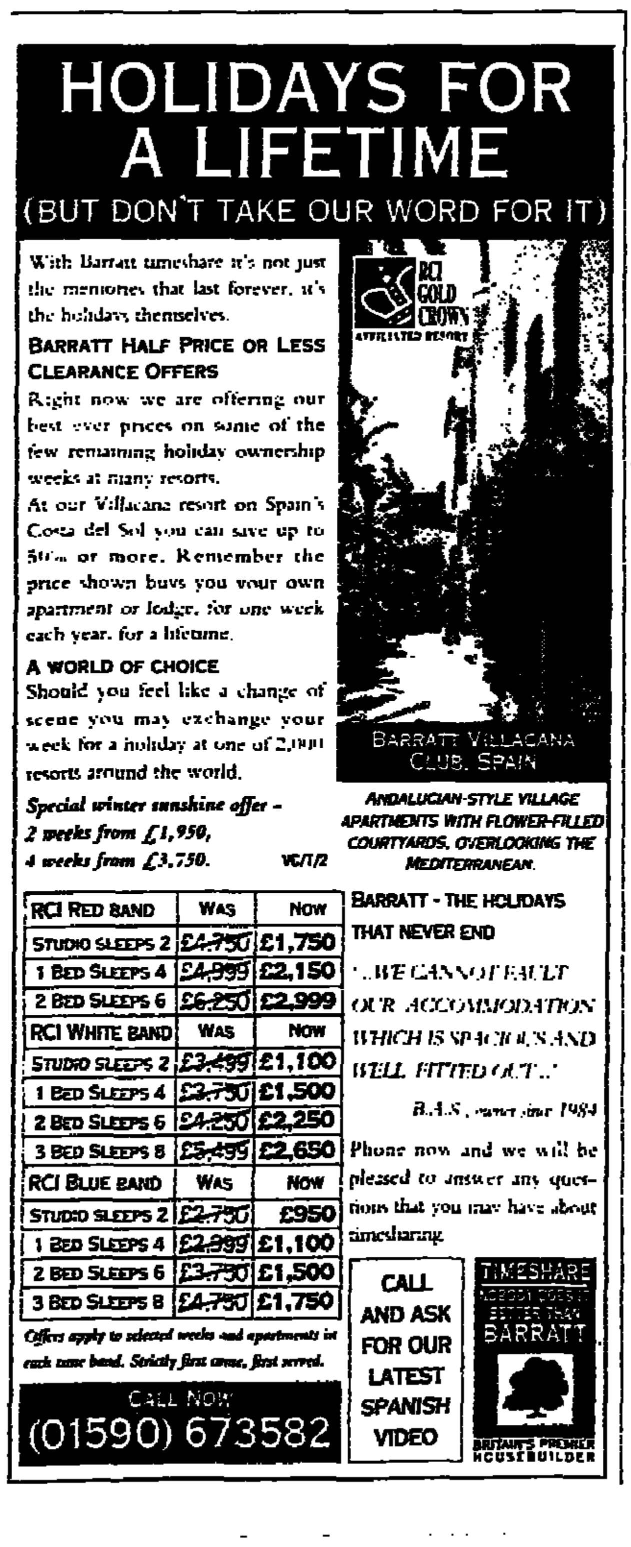
"Before, the game just came naturally. I'd never go on court with a game plan. Now, *I change my style to suit* different players and I know what I've been through and why I'm doing it."

Few, though, would have expected Harris to crown his *resurgence quite so emphati*cally, by reaching the final of the World Open in November. The manner of his defeat, by Jansher Khan, in four tight *games and* 101 *minutes, con*firmed Harris's place among the heirs to the great world champion.

The national championships, *depleted by the with*drawal of Simon Parke, should hold no fears for the British No 1. The spirit of Del Boy remains, but within reason. "I know when to have a *drink and when not to,*" he said. "I suppose I was rebelling really. I don't feel the urge to do that any more. I'm having a good time playing again."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Harris, national squash champion at 18, aims to regain the title in Birmingham this week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BRITAIN'S PREMIER HOUSEBUILDER

Nicol aiming to spike the English challenge

By COLIN McQUILLAN

ASSUMPTIONS that the QM national championships, that start at Edgbaston Priory, Birmingham, today, would consolidate a new English hierarchy at the head of British squash have been reduced in the men's championship: first, by the emergence of a *Scot as top seed; and second,* by the late withdrawal of the Simon Parke, the No 3 seed, because of appendicitis.

The Scottish challenge, from Peter Nicol, 22 and No 4 in the world, could produce the first British champion from north of the border since the event began as the British closed championship in 1974. He was too good for the English at the Mahindra Challenge in Bombay, the last important tour event of 1995.

Nicol is far from safe from surprises. Nick Taylor, of Manchester, a finalist last year, is in his quarter of the *draw, along with* Mark Cairns, who many considered unfortunate to miss selection for the England squad that won the world team championship in November. With Parke out, the scheduled semi-final opponent for Nicol is Stephen Meads, who is trying to become the first man to successfully defend the title.

The bottom half of the men's draw is scheduled to produce *a semi-final between Del Har*ris and Mark Chaloner, voted the Sports Writers' Association's newcomer of the year.

The women's field contains four former champions, with Cassandra Jackman, the world No 4 and winner in 1993, scheduled to play a final against Suzanne Horner, the world No 6 and winner in 1994. Fiona Geaves, the defending champion, is due for Jackman's semi-final, with Sue Wright, *the champion in* 1992, expected to meet Horner.

LEADING SEEDS: Men: 1, P Nicol (Scotland); 2, D Harris (Essex); 4, M Chaloner (Lincolnshire); 5, M Cairns (Oxfordshire); 6, P Johnson (Kent); 7, S Meads (Berkshire); 8, [illegible] (Surrey). Women: 1, C Jackman (Norfolk); 2, S Horner (Yorkshire); 3, F Geaves (Gloucester); 4, S Wright (Kent); 5, J Martin (Northumbria); 6, L Charman (Sussex); 7, R Macree (Essex); 8, S Macfie (Scotland).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

MUTASE

(b) Any enzyme that brings about a dismutation reaction, from the Latin *mutāre* to change. "Aldehyde mutase brings about the Cannizzaro reaction. Here, two molecules of an aldehyde undergo an oxido-reaction."

HAMAMELIS

(c) A shrub or small tree of the genus so called, which is native to North America and eastern Asia, belongs to the family Hamamelidaceae, and includes several species bearing yellow flowers late in winter before the leaves appear: a witch-hazel. From the Greek for a medlar. "The concentration *Hamamelin* is used for piles mostly in form of suppositories."

NIPPY

(b) Formerly, a waitress in one of the restaurants of J. Lyons & Co. Ltd., London, a Lyons tearoom. Because she was "nippy" on her feet. "His hands stuck out in front of him like a Nippy carrying a tray."

HEVEA

(a) A South American tree of the genus so called, belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae, and having milky sap that provides rubber. From *hevé*, the French version of the native name in French Guiana. "The exudation is known as hevea-latex, since *Hevea brasiliensis* is only one of some four hundred plant species which elaborate juices containing rubber."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rxe6+ Kxe8; 2. Nc7+ wins the black queen.

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RADIO CHOICE

Putting on a brave show

First Person Plural: Invasion of Edinburgh. *Radio 4, 9.30am.*

This audio diary chronicles a plucky theatrical venture that ended up almost as flat as a pricked balloon. It is the antithesis of those Mickey *Rooney/Judy Garland musicals* where stage-struck teenagers hit the big time overnight. The eponymous invaders — amateurs, with one exception — performed their sci-fi parody, *Cosmic Brain Suckers*, on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The reviews were not ecstatic. "Aids is funnier," said one. Audience numbers rose and fell like the track of a big dipper. Cash ran out. The behaviour of the one professional actor so inflamed Sarah, actress and co-director, that her thoughts turned to murder. It is not universally true that there is no business like showbusiness.

The Airport. *Radio 4, 6.30pm.*

An ancient poser is resurrected by this comedy series: can we always trust a studio audience? It is a tricky business, evaluating studio laughter. It can be a way of expressing gratitude at being invited to what is a free show. It can be a response to a director's plea to the audience to help to jolly things along. And, of course, some laughter is 100 per cent genuine, and we listeners *should not feel guilty* about joining in. Whatever provoked the non-stop approbation, I have rarely heard such hilarious approval as that with which tonight's audience salutes the jokes in this resumed series about the staff at a madhouse of an airport.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session. Placebo and Foo Fighters **9.00** Collins and Maconie **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Thought **7.30** Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Change at Oglethorpe. Final episode **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Latino Nuevo **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden, incl at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05am Morning Reports **6.00** The *Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55* racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Gut Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Cricket's World Cup. The one-day event in 1983 **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** Night Moves **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy *Boyd* **2.00pm** *Anna Raeburn* **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** *McSorley's Saloon* **7.30** Network UK **8.00** News **8.10** Faith **8.15** Composer **8.45** Good Books **9.00** News in German **9.15** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *McSorley's Saloon* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Man, Machine and Music **12.00** World News **12.05pm** World Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** *Assignment* **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.00** News in German **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Network UK **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Network UK **11.45** Health Matters **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** On the Move **12.45** *Britain Today* **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Surviving the 20th Century **1.45** Global **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Thirty-Minute Drama: *The Vacillations of Poppy Carew* **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Faith **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today.

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** The Travel Guide **8.00** Concert. Russian music **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Hits Through the Night

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am *Russ 'n' Jono* **9.00** *Richard* Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Home **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Rachmaninov (Great Doxology, Vespers); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A); Clementi (Sonata in B flat, Op 24 No 2); Falla (*Nights in the Gardens of Spain*); Johann Strauss, son (Morning Papers); Biber (Sonata violino representativa in A)

8.45 A Series of Intervals. Adrian Jack on the perfect 5th

9.00 ***Morning* Collection with Paul Gambaccini.** Borodin (Polovtsian Dances, Prince Igor); Scarlatti (Sonata in E); Anon (Ave Maria gracia plena; O Maria stella maris); Domenico Scarlatti (Stabat Mater: Monteverdi Choir; English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Buonamente (Canzona a 6; Ave Maria; Pater noster); Dittersdorf (Harp Concerto); Debussy (Ariettes oubliées); Bartók (Divertimento); Vaughan Williams (Jolly Rutterkin, Five Tudor Portraits)

12.00 Composer of the Week: *Mozart.* *Nicholas Till presents* extracts from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

1.00pm Opera Matinée: Beatrice di Tenda. Bellini's tragic opera about a wealthy widow abandoned by her second husband for her lady-in-waiting. Mariella Devia, soprano, Ettore Kim, baritone, Mika Shigematsu, mezzo, Luca Canonici, tenor, Fran van Aken, tenor; Netherlands Radio Choir and Orchestra under Kees Bakels

3.40 A Series of Intervals. Adrian Jack yields to the minor 6th

3.45 Vladimir Ovchinnikov. A concert of Russian piano showpieces at the *Glories of the Keyboard Festival* in Manchester

5.00 The Music Machine. 1840-1900. Romanticism in art with Tommy Pearson

5.15 In Tune, presented by Linda Ormiston. Mendelssohn (Hebrides Overture); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A minor, Op 23); Ravel (Rapsodie espagnole)

7.30 Music from Snape. A concert from the 1994 festival. Martin Jones and Gordon Fergus-Thompson, pianos; Britten Sinfonia under Nicholas Cleobury. Britten (Johnson over Jordan); Poulenc (Concerto for two pianos in D minor); Milhaud (La Création du monde); Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Animals); Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin)

9.25 Celtic Soul. Sean Street investigates where history ends and fantasy begins in St David's

9.45 Bassoon and Piano. Gareth Newman, bassoon, and Suzanne Cheetham, piano, perform Hindemith (Sonata); Osborne (Rhapsody for bassoon solo); Vinter (Reverie); Pickard (The Phagotus of Afranio); Saint-Saëns (Sonata in G) (r)

10.35 A Series of Intervals. Adrian Jack examines the minor 6th

10.45 Night Waves. The Czech songwriter Vladimir Merta in conversation with Patrick Wright

11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras. The BBC Philharmonic under Jiri Belohlavek. Strauss (An Alpine Symphony)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today *6.25 Prayer for the Day* **6.30** Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts

9.30 First Person Plural. See Choice

10.00-10.30 News; King Street Junior (FM only). Internal Inquiries. School comedy with Karl Howman and James Grout (6/6) (r)

10.00 News; Daily Service (LW)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial. Michael Maloney reads Kate Saunders's comedy of love and manners *Lions and Liquorice*, abridged by Monica Grey (6/12)

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm The Train Now Showing. John Huntley sits back to take a train journey through recollections of films past (r) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Blood Sugar, by Lee Hall. Jill is 14, overweight and obsessed with food. With Sharon Percy and Charlie Hardwick

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reports on a flamenco spectacular and considers the benefits of educational CD-Roms

4.45 Short Story: So When It Rains, What Then? by Jean Clayworth. Read by Paul Young

5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The Airport. See Choice

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Clever Girls and Lost Boys. Sarah Dunant investigates the mounting evidence that both boys and girls do better in single-sex schools

8.00 Asia Gold. Edward Stourton travels to South Korea where state direction, rather than a free market, has dragged the country from poverty to prosperity in three decades

8.45 Aesthete's Foot. John McKay's popular reminiscences of his comically dreary and awkward East Lothian boyhood

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report. Alistair McGowan reads J.L. Carr's comic classic (9/10)

11.00 Ray Bradbury Introduces Tales of the Bizarre: Skeleton. Ray Bradbury introduces the last of six of his short stories

11.30 Ad Lib (FM only)(r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Maybe the Moon. Shelley Thompson reads Armistead Maupin's story (4/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Social engineering and the Singapore girl

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Just when you thought it might be safe to dip one timid little tiger paw into the Far East, along comes **Under The Sun** (BBC2) to tell us that this "stakeholder" stuff is not all it is cracked up to be. Tony Blair will not be best pleased.

At first glance, *Singapore Singles* looked like yet another film about dating agencies. And why not — it must be a good three weeks since *Modern Times* tackled the subject. High time we had another film about three lonely bods pursuing the search for the perfect . . .

The Labour leader's noisy new *enthusiasm* for welfare Orient-style gave the programme a relevance that its makers can never have dreamt of. New Labour . . . new Britain . . . new set of social problems.

For Singapore turned out not to be *Elysium* after all. Paradoxically, just as we are all encouraged to look East, Singapore's little problem seems to stem from rather too much looking West, at least by its young women. Singapore's women, we learned, are now educated, independent and rich . . . which frightens the heck out of Singapore's men, who are also educated and rich but because of the housing system are often still living with mum and would like a wife cast in traditional, Far East mould. Those Singapore Girl airline ads have a lot to answer for.

But short of a couple of jumbo jets full of gorgeous, submissive air hostesses landing at Changi airport that just ain't going to happen. What is going to happen is that the Singapore Government, which believes the family unit *takes the place of a welfare system*, has intervened to encourage its young people to get on with it. "Life will be lonely without a family — don't leave it too late" warn the sort of television advertisements I can't wait to see in Britain. My particular favourite was one discouraging over-pickiness about prospective partners: "Why not reality? You could wait a lifetime for a dream." That sort of pragmatic approach gets you into trouble at parties.

Matrimonial policy is affected by the SDU, *which is not something* you get a nasty dose of but the Social Development Unit or, as it is unofficially known by its members, Single, Desperate and Ugly. The problem, it appears, is that Singapore's young women have imported only half the lifestyle of their Western counterparts and are stuck at the girls dancing round their handbags stage.

They would rather die than be bought a drink by a man and run a mile if a chap turns up for a first date without a chaperone. One girl even complained when, the day after returning from an SDU-organised "cruise", a shy young man (shyness is a big problem, apparently) plucked up the courage to ring her up. Was she grateful? She was not: "Far too soon." Stakeholder or not, the shelf beckoned.

At the end of Jenny de Yong's witty and enjoyable film, a possible solution to all our ills occurred to me. If the Singapore Government could send someone over to show us how to be rich and prosperous and have 100 per cent employment . . . we'll send them Cilla Black and a tanker full of Bacardi and Coke.

Quite what the answers are to the problems presented in Christopher Hird's disturbing film for **Dispatches** (Channel 4), only J.K. Galbraith knows . . . but more *of him later. Hird's specific subject* was the persecution of elderly people by children mounting sustained campaigns of harassment and abuse that, for the recipients at least, border on terrorism.

But the council estates he had to visit to meet what one community policeman described as "the preyers and the preyed-upon" were already familiar. They were the *same estates documentary makers* have visited to make films about "joyriding", single young mothers, stray dogs and a host of other serious social ills. It was "underclass" time again.

Based on the accounts of the besieged victims, bricks through windows are now old hat for young hooligans. These days it's live rats through the letter box, fox heads in the gardens and dog muck smeared on handrails.

Some will have found Hird's coaxing of the young protagonists distasteful but it worked — out of *the mouths of lager-swilling, dead-*eyed babes came the confessions. As for the reasons why, it was the normal toss-up between "she was doing my head in" and "it was something to do". Infinitely depressing.

It was left to J.K. Galbraith to pull the strands of the evening together, as BBC2 continued *its new year campaign to keep our* brains up late with **The Big Idea**. If you didn't have a basic grounding in Keynesian economic theory you were in trouble with this one. Neither Galbraith nor his interviewer, Andrew Marr, compromised much for the layman and as I am someone who hung on by his economic finger-tips, my summary should be treated with caution.

Galbraith, it seemed, was in chipper mood — strikes in France, new Labour in Britain, even a swing back to the Democrats in America — things, he thought, *were finally going his public sector* way. That was the good news for Tony Blair; the bad news was that he thought there were no lessons to be learned from the East. Enthusiasm for eastern systems of familial support he described as a "wonderful way of escaping from selfishness".

But the excluded underclass had to be brought back into society and in *that gentle, almost hypnotic* Canadian brogue, Galbraith described how. "Progressive income tax — one of the great civilising influences of all time." It's the way he tells 'em.

BBC1

6.00am **Business Breakfast** (70053)
7.00 **BBC Breakfast** (Ceefax) (29060324)
9.10 **Kilroy** (s) (2106985)
10.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (6196891) 10.05 **Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (6343072)
10.30 **Good Morning with Anne and Nick** (s) (51850)
12.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (6489053) 12.05pm **Pebble Mill** with guests James Whale and Roy Marsden (s) (9627459) 12.50 **Regional News** and weather (13322614)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** (Ceefax) and weather (94481)
1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceefax) (s) (64484140) 1.50 **The Flying Doctors** (Ceefax) (s) (1559614) 2.35 **This Is Your Life** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4645817)
3.05 **Timekeepers** presented by Bill Dod (5851169)
3.30 **The New Yogi Bear Show** (r) (7770492) 3.35 **The Morph Files** (s) (2199256) 3.50 **Peter Pan and the Pirates** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1168904) 4.10 **Highlander** (Ceefax) (s) (5110607) 4.35 **The Really Wild Show** (Ceefax) (s) (9115169)
5.00 **Newsround** (Ceefax) (4573091) 5.10 **The Demon Headmaster** (Ceefax) (s) (7724782)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (151879)
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** (Ceefax) and weather (121)
6.30 ***Regional News Magazines*** *(701)*
7.00 **Top of the Pops**. (Ceefax) (s) (5091)
7.30 **EastEnders**. (Ceefax) (s) (985)
8.00 **The Vet** *starring Suzanne Burden. Drama series set in a Devon veterinary practice. Jennifer Holt is well-accustomed to being treated as an outsider by the locals, but when she tackles the Whitton dog fighters she realises just how dangerous country life can be.* (Ceefax) (s) (487324)
8.50 **Animal Hospital Heroes**. Rolf Harris reflects on some heartwarming stories from past visits to the pets and vets of the Harmsworth Hospital in London. With Steve Knight and Mairi McHaffie. (Ceefax) (s) (541904)
9.00 ***Nine O'Clock News*** *(Ceefax), regional news and* weather (3985)
9.30 **French and Saunders**. Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders with more comedy sketches and songs. They set their sights on Mel Gibson's Highland epic, *Braveheart*; Jennifer has a "Jackie O" day, while Dawn is transformed into the likeness of the Icelandic singer Bjork. Patsy Kensit is foolhardy enough to be their guest. (Ceefax) (s) (10362)

A painful choice for the Stewarts (10.00pm)

10.00 **Inside Story: A Peaceful Exit.** (Ceefax) (s) (530782)
10.50 **Question Time**. David Dimbleby chairs a political debate with a panel of prominent public figures and an invited audience (Ceefax) (9515256)
11.55 **FILM: Pack of Lies** (1987). Television film starring Ellen Burstyn, Teri Garr, Alan Bates, Ronald Hines, Daniel Benzali and Sammi Davis. The former warmth *and trust in the relationship between two* suburban families begins to fall apart when a sinister British intelligence agent enters their lives. Directed by Anthony Page. (Ceefax) (284817)
1.30am **Weather** (2301183)

BBC2

6.00am **Business and Work: Nice Work** (78695)
7.00 **Breakfast News** (Ceefax and signing) (6440459)
7.15 **Lassie** (3564237) 7.40 **Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (7611492) 8.05 **Blue Peter** (r) (5671508) 8.35 **The Record** (s) (9855343) 9.00 **The Little Train to Lynton** (r) (81362) 9.30 **Seabrook's Year** (r) (94324) 10.00 **Playdays** (r) (s) (6342343)
10.25 **FILM: Bells of San Angelo** (1947) starring Roy Rogers. A musical western directed by William Witney (5865091) 11.40 **The Fugitive** (b/w) (1727898)
12.30pm **Working Lunch** (s) (98140) 1.00 **Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams** (r) (s) (28238966)
1.15 **Tree Top Raft**. Scientists study the Amazon rainforest from above (r) (1823695) 2.10 **The Andrew Neil Show** (s) (5888492)
3.00 **News** (Ceefax) regional news and weather. Followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross** (Ceefax) (7518256) 3.55 **News** (Ceefax) (5574879)
4.00 **Today's the Day** (s) (614) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (898)
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (7166256)
5.40 **The Sky at Night** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (606904)
6.00 **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**. An alien entity wreaks merry mischief with the station's computer (Ceefax) (s) (519256)
6.45 **They Who Dare**. French freefall champ, Patrick Gayardon, defies gravity (s) (112701)
7.00 **Waiting for God** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3633)
7.30 **First Sight: A Poor Law** (527) **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army (527)

The ups and downs of George Walker (8.00pm)

8.00 **My Brilliant Career**. George Walker, the former chief executive of the leisure conglomerate Brent Walker, talks about the fight to clear his name (Ceefax) (s) (9053)
8.30 **Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld**. Clarkson visits Cuba, home of the rusting Cadillac (Ceefax) (s) (8188)
9.00 **Traces of Guilt**. (Ceefax) (s) (686614)
9.50 ***Potted Histories***. *Comedian Greg Proops reveals how to make your houseplants feel at home* (Ceefax) (s) (202324)
10.00 **Game On**. Comedy series. (r) (Ceefax) (79527)
10.30 **Newsnight**. (Ceefax) (225508)
11.15 **Late Review** (s) (199879)
11.55 **Weather** (368481)
12.00 **Midnight Hour** (s) (89676)
12.30am-6.00 **The Learning Zone**

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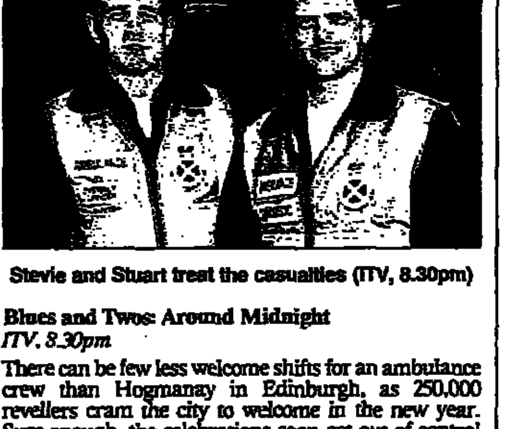
CHOICE

Inside Story: A Peaceful Exit
BBC1, 10.00pm

The case for euthanasia is put as forcefully as it could be by Jim and Bronwyn Stewart, the parents of a two-year-old boy with irreversible brain damage. At four months Ian Stewart underwent a major heart operation to save his life. The chance of brain damage was admitted but said to be remote. But Ian can barely see or hear and is in constant distress. His father has had to give up his job to help to look after him. The strain on the parents has been enormous. They have contemplated suicide, holding back only because of their other children. Although the law is against euthanasia, the Stewarts feel that public opinion is on their side. The film goes to the intimate heart of a dilemma that no family would want to have.



Stevie and Stuart treat the casualties (ITV, 8.30pm)

Blues and Twos: Around Midnight
ITV, 8.30pm

There can be few less welcome shifts for an ambulance crew than Hogmanay in Edinburgh, as 250,000 revellers cram the city to welcome in the new year. Sure enough, the celebrations soon get out of control and paramedics Stevie and Stuart prepare for their busiest night of the year. The same is true of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, which by the small hours is trying to cope with more than 300 uninvited guests. It all makes pulsating footage for this first in a new series saluting the skill and bravery of the emergency services. They usually make the news when things go wrong. Here there are no patients left waiting for ambulances or being shunted from hospital to hospital in the search for a bed. Professionalism rules.

Traces of Guilt: A Stranger Murder
BBC2, 9.00pm

The forensic science series comes up with a case so full of surprises, not to mention formidable detective work, that it will surely be turned into a feature film if one is not already in production. The discovery in the Vienna Woods of the naked body of a murdered prostitute not only launches the search for Austria's first serial killer but also has ramifications as far as Los Angeles, where mass murderers are comparatively common. So-called "stranger" killings, where the victim is unknown to the murderer, are particularly hard to solve. In this instance it took the hunch of a retired detective in Salzburg to supply the impetus for an investigation that covered most of Austria and a wide area of California. The reconstruction is grippingly staged.

Peak Performance: Strike Force
ITV, 7.30pm

David Platt, of Arsenal and England, is a footballer with the knack of appearing from nowhere to poach goals. He calls his skill instinctive but since this is a series about science it tries to offer more analytical explanations. The talents of Arsenal's other hitmen, Ian Wright, Paul Merson and Dennis Bergkamp, are also dissected, often with revealing results. What the programme fails to mention is that the Gunners' strike force, despite the addition this season of the *enormously expensive Platt and Bergkamp*, continues to underachieve. For all their talent, Arsenal have a modest goal tally compared with many other Premier League teams. Perhaps the scientific experts could be *called back to explain why.* **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am **GMTV** (2900256)
9.25 **Win, Lose or Draw** (s) (4446850)
9.55 **London Today** (Teletext) (6329492)
10.00 ***The Time . . . The Place*** *(s) (1100188)*
10.35 **This Morning** (57341898) 12.20pm **London Today** (Teletext) (6485237)
12.30 **ITN News** and weather (Teletext) (6799459)
12.55 **Home and Away** (Teletext) (6767850)
1.25 **Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (32126695)
1.55 **A Country Practice** (s) (64489695)
2.20 **Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (18192343)
2.50 NEW **Our House**. Suzi Becker looks at unusual homes. This week she visits a *new house built in the style of a 16th-century manor*, an art deco home and a witches' commune in Droitwich (4636169)
3.20 **ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (2371343) 3.25 **London Today** (Teletext) (2370614)
3.30 **The Riddlers** (2194701) 3.40 **Wizadora** (r) (s) (7785324) 3.50 **Rupert** (1144324) 4.15 **Mike and Angelo** (s) (8265576) 4.40 **Reboot II: Talent Night**. Computer animation (Teletext) (s) (7816275)
5.10 **After 5 with Caron Keating** (6259324)
5.40 **ITN News** and weather (Teletext) (977904)
5.55 **Your Shout**. Viewers air their views (865121)
6.00 **Home and Away** (r). (Teletext) (817)
6.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) (169)
7.00 **Emmerdale**. (Teletext) (7459)

Footballer David Platt spots the ball (7.30pm)

7.30 **Peak Performance** (s) (463)
8.00 **The Bill: Home Truths**. After a vicious assault, Ackland and Garfield have to sort out some tricky family business. (Teletext) (3879)
8.30 **Blues and Twos**. (Teletext) (s) (5614)
9.00 **Taggart: Devil's Advocate**. Episode two of the three-part drama. Isla McLennan's sudden disappearance raises suspicions: is she the latest victim or the culprit? (Teletext) (6324)
10.00 **ITN News at Ten** (Teletext) (66053) 10.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) (426850)
10.40 **FILM: The Golden Child** (1986). Eddie Murphy has to recover a child who will bring good into the world but who is being held by a black magician. An absurd plot rescued from a fate worse than box-office oblivion by the comic talent of Murphy. Also starring Charlotte Lewis and Charles Dance. Directed by Michael Ritchie. (Teletext) (s) (74171817)
12.25am **Live from the Lilydrome** (r) (s) (9856763)
1.25 **Not Fade Away** (2562218) 2.25 **Shift** (6277676)
3.15 **The Crime Hour** presented by John Stalker and Mary Nightingale (r)
4.10 **On the Live Side** (Teletext) (r) (84154299)
4.30 **The Millionaires: Clever Trevor**. A profile of the former Radio 1 DJ Bruno Brookes (r) (85069454)
4.55 **The Time . . . The Place** (r) (s) (1752367)
5.30 ***ITN Morning News*** *(77831)*

CHANNEL 4

6.35am ***Think Tank*** *(r) (Teletext) (s) (5073121)*
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (27362)
9.00 **Fifteen To One** (r) (Teletext) (s) (76430) 9.30 **Stand Still, Be Fit** (r) (s) (89492)
10.00 **FILM: Miss Robin Hood** (1952). Comedy starring the sublimely dotty Margaret Rutherford, with James Robertson Justice, Michael Medwin and Dora *Bryan. Directed by John Guillermin. (6947091)*
11.20 **Pink and Blue Blues** (9670072)
11.30 **Living Memory: The 1970s** (r) (7188)
12.00 **House to House** Political discussion (63966)
12.30pm **Sesame Street** (13275) 1.30 **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (r) (s) (76279546) 1.55 **Silly Little Goose** (17332904)
2.10 **FILM: Ladies in Love** (1936, b/w). Romantic comedy-drama starring Janet Gaynor, Loretta Young and Constance Bennett who pool their savings to rent a plush apartment in Budapest to help them to find wealthy husbands. With Don Ameche and Tyrone Power Jr. Directed by Edward H. Griffith. (Teletext) (834904)
4.00 **Backdate** (Teletext) (s) (782)
4.30 **Countdown** (Teletext) (s)(966)
5.00 **Ricki Lake** (7314546) 5.45 **Terrytoons** followed by **Murun Buchstansangur.** (974817)
6.00 **Home Improvement: Blow Up**. American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (459)
6.30 **New Gamesmaster**. Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore test the latest games and challenge celebrities to show off their computer skills (s) (411)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) including headlines and weather at 7.30 (700966)
7.50 **The Slot**. Viewers' opinions (768324)

Asthmatics Shahnaz and daughters (8.00pm)

8.00 **The Pulse**. Medical magazine. Shahnaz Pakravan investigates a cure for asthma (Teletext) (s) (4121)
8.30 **A Taste of the Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago**. In the second of her six-part series Donnda Hafner visits the Breakfast Shed on Trinidad and learns to cook Callaloo soup. Then she goes to Tobago and an African Culture Day of goat racing, singing and a communal cook-up. (Teletext) (3256)
9.00 **The Roswell Incident**. Documentary charting the eerie events of July 4, 1947, in the desert outside Roswell, New Mexico, when it seemed to many level-headed onlookers that aliens had landed (r). (Teletext) (s) (4966)
10.00 **FILM: Wedding Day Blues** (1988). Feuding friends and family members sabotage what should have been a perfect wedding, turning it into a nightmare. Only the bridegroom and best man weather the storm of comic misunderstandings. With Cloris Leachman, Eileen Brennan and Scott *Valentine. Directed by Paul Lynch.* (Teletext) (179966)
11.45 **Rory Bremner, Apparently** (r) (s) (303275)
12.50am **Dispatches** (r) (Teletext) (2137015)
1.35 **FILM: Sitting in Limbo** (1986) Documentary-style drama based on the real-life experiences of four black teenagers living in Montreal. Directed by *John N. Smith (Teletext) (162676)*. Ends at **3.15**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.55 Special Babies (6767850) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (32126695) 2.50-3.20 Chain Letters (4636169) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6259324) 6.25 Anglia Weather (300879) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (169) 12.25am Not Fade Away (9856763) 1.25 Shift (2562218) 2.25 The Crime Hour (8268928) 3.20 An Evening with Placido Domingo (3390744) 4.30 The Time .. the Place (14947) 5.00 The New Mr & Mrs Show (59522)

CENTRAL
As London except: 2.50-3.20 High Road (4636169) 3.25-3.30 Central News (2370614) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6259324) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (308237) 10.30-10.40 Central News and Weather (426850) 4.10am Jobfinder (3476812) 5.20 Asian Eye (3905098)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (6767850) 1.25 Home and Away (84362071) 1.50-2.20 Chain Letters (78257324) 3.25-3.30 Granada News (2370614) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (6259324) 6.25-7.00 Granada Tonight (308237) 10.30-10.40 Granada News (426850) 4.30-4.55 Jobfinder (85069454)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (9768053) 1.20 Coronation Street (32127324) 2.20 Chain Letters (18192343) 2.50-3.20 Vanessa (4636169) 3.25-3.30 HTV West Headlines (2370614) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (6259324) 6.25-7.00 HTV News (308237) 10.30-10.40 HTV West Headlines and Weather (426850) 12.25am Not Fade Away (9856763) 1.25 Shift (2562218) 2.25 The Crime Hour (6268928) 3.20 An Evening with Placido Domingo (3390744) 4.30 The Time... the Place (14947) 5.00 The New Mr & Mrs Show (59522)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (308237) 7.30-8.00 Swansea Festival (463) 10.30-10.40 HTV Wales News and Weather (426850)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 9.55am Meridian News and Weather (6329492) 10.00-10.35 The Time.. the Place (1100188) 12.20pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (6485237) 12.55 Chain Letters (6767850) 1.25 Home and Away (32126695) 1.55-2.20 Shortland Street (64489695) 2.50-3.20 Behind The Scenes With Penelope Keith (4636169) 3.25-3.30 Meridian News and Weather (2370614) 5.10 Home and Away (6259324) 5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (865985) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (817) 6.30-7.00 Getaways (169) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News and Weather (426850) 12.25am Not Fade Away (9856763) 1.25 Shift (2562218) 2.25 The Crime Hour (8151270) 3.30 An Evening with Placido Domingo (67855) 4.30 The Time.. the Place (14947) 5.00 Freescreen (59522)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 9.55 Westcountry News (6329492) 10.00-10.35 The Time.. the Place (1100188) 12.20pm Westcountry News (6494985) 12.25-12.30 My Story (6493256) 12.55 Chain Letters (6767850) 1.25 Emmerdale (32126695) 1.55-2.20 Home and Away (64489695) 2.50-3.20 A Country Practice (4636169) 3.25-3.30 Westcountry News; Weather (2370614) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6259324) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (92035) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News, Weather (426850) 12.25am Not Fade Away (9856763) 1.25 Shift (2562218) 2.25 The Crime Hour (6268928) 3.20 An Evening with Placido Domingo (3390744) 4.30 The Time.. the Place (14947) 5.00 The New Mr & Mrs Show (59522)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 9.55 Calendar News and Weather (6329492) 10.00-10.35 The Time.. the Place (1100188) 12.20pm-12.30 Calendar News and Weather (6485237) 1.55 Emmerdale (76256695) 2.25 Vanessa (18191614) 3.25-3.30 Yorkshire: Calendar News / Biladale. Network North (2370614) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6259324) 5.55 Calendar / Network North (145695) 6.30-7.00 Tonight (169) 10.30-10.40 Calendar News and Weather (426850) 12.40am Film: A Small Killing (2489838) 2.10 Not Fade Away (6197522) 3.10 Shift (3776454) 4.05 Champions: Where Are They Now? (78537473) 4.35 Jobfinder (2735270)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27362) 9.00 Fifteen To One (76430) 9.30 Stand Still Be Fit (89492) 10.00 Film: Miss Robin Hood (6947091) 11.20 Pink And Blue Blues (9670072) 11.30 60 Years: The 1960s (7188) 12.00pm House To House (63966) 12.30 Madeline (90508) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (97121) 1.30 Film: Tin Pan Alley (13004850) 3.15 Ricki Lake (5974459) 4.00 Backdate (782) 4.30 Travelog (966) 5.00 5 Pump Uned 5 (5237) 5.30 Countdown (546) 6.00 Newyddion (506966) 6.15 Heno (158071) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (451862) 7.25 Pwy Di Pwy? (619275) 8.00 Cyw Haul (4121) 8.30 Newyddion (3256) 9.00 A 55 (4966) 10.00 Wy Mieus (64695) 10.30 Film: Kes (60285237) 12.35am Dispatches (2115522)

SATELLITE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE
7.00am The DJ Kat Show (53986) 8.00 Power Rangers (15343) 8.30 Press Your Luck (14614) 9.00 Court TV (60986) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (22546) 10.30 Concentration (94850) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (46411) 12.00 Jeopardy! (18430) 12.30pm Murphy Brown (45072) 1.00 The Waltons (40527) 2.00 Geraldo (62360) 3.00 Court TV (8237) 3.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (2229411) 4.15 Undun (4912966) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (2817) 6.00 The Simpsons (6508) 6.30 Jeopardy! (3148) 7.00 LAPD (3546) 7.30 M*A*S*H (9072) 8.00 Due South (72140) 9.00 The Commish (92904) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (95091) 11.00 Law and Order (67904) 12.00 David Letterman (6304015) 12.45 The Untouchables (6696218) 1.30 The Edge (23218) 2.00-6.00 Hit Mix (6803522)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9386879) 10.30 ABC Nightline (92492) 11.00 World News and Business (400891) 1.30pm CBS News (97362) 2.30 Parliament Live (85256) 3.30 Parliament Live (8966) 4.00 World News and Business (43140) 5.00 Live at Five (61904) 6.30 Tonight with Adam Boulton (88430) 8.30 Worldwide Report (9343) 9.00 World News and Business (725985) 11.30 CBS News (68904) 12.30am ABC News (29980) 1.30 Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (58763) 2.30 Newsmaker (70560) 3.30 Parliament Replay (82305) 4.30 CBS News (64612) 5.30-6.00 ABC News (19831)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am They Died With Their Boots On (1941) (23578053) 8.20 Gigi (1958) (74002072) 10.20 I Spy Returns (1993) (48775614) 12.00 Pumping Iron II: The Women (1985) (15053) 2.00pm The Helicopter Spies (1967) (86343) 4.00 True Stories (1986) (7121) 6.00 I Spy Returns (1993) (19239166) 7.40 US Top Ten (509508) 8.00 Man Without a Face (1993) (78324) 10.00 Fortress (1994) (241782) 11.40 Used People (1992) (219343) 1.40am Painted Heart (1992) (1341102) 3.05-5.00 Aspen Extreme (1993) (73259170)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm The Rose Tattoo (1955) (6053) 6.00 Falling in Love (1984) (75275) 8.00 The Violent Men (1955) (47432) 10.00 The Conversation (1974) (72598324) 12.05am Hellraiser (1987) (572218) 1.40-3.25 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (872541)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am For the First Time (1959) (65463) 8.00 The Fabulous Adventures of Baron Munchausen (23072) 10.00 Easy to Love (1953) (47430) 12.00 Touch of Truth (1994) (13695) 2.00pm A Girl in Every Port (1951) (84985) 4.00 The Fabulous Adventures of Baron Munchausen (8091) 6.00 Touch of Truth (1994) (64121) 8.00 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994) (25527) 9.30 The Movie Show (58546) 10.00 Short Cuts (1993) (98151275) 1.05am Confessions of a Pop Performer (1975) (521270) 2.40 Water (1985) (710183) 4.20-6.00 A Girl in Every Port (1951) (849015)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (31118140) 6.30 Fraggle Rock (36620102) 7.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (56276689) 7.30 Ducktales (81026986) 8.00 Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (49974695) 8.30 Adventures in Wonderland (49973966) 9.00 Walt Disney Presents (31134188) 10.00 Under the Umbrella Tree (42925594) 10.30 Fraggle Rock (49986430) 11.00 Muppet Babies (69252614) 11.30 Welcome to Pooh Corner (69253343) 12.00 Quack Attack (49977782) 12.30pm Dumbo's Circus (12244594) 1.00 Adventures in Wonderland (71121530) 1.30 The Sinbad Show (13694035) 2.00 The Torkelsons (20362053) 2.30 Faerie Tale Theatre (18811362) 3.30 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (63410742) 4.00 Quack Attack (17280099) 4.30 Ducktales (25365463) 5.00 Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (20386833) 5.30 Danger Bay (68239763) 6.00 Tarzan (29054186) 6.30 Dinosaurs (16830558) 7.00 FILM: Menace on the Mountain (67637072) 8.30-10.00 Music Special (41585508)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Rally Raid (58635) 8.00 Equestrianism (65508) 9.00 Live Biathlon (59782) 11.00 Euroski (24148) 11.30 Live Alpine Skiing (24169) 1.00pm Biathlon (33985) 2.00 Snowboarding (1594) 2.30 Car on Ice (9091) 3.00 Snooker (87053) 4.30 Football (50508) 5.30 Live Handball (856614) 8.30 Rally Raid (9985) 9.00 Pro Wrestling (18966) 10.00 Boxing (11053) 11.00 Strength (59308) 12.00-12.30am Rally Raid (58744)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Sports Centre (94072) 7.30 Racing News (80879) 8.00 Wrestling Superstars (83140) 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style (76017) 9.30 Grass Roots Rugby (49546) 10.00 Ice Warriors (29782) 12.00 Cricket: South Africa v England (1909985) 8.25 Sports Centre (530891) 8.30 World Masters Cricket (68091) 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (83492) 10.30 Tight Lines (78904) 11.30 Cricket Highlights (97258) 1.30 World of Rugby Union (69034) 2.00-2.30 Sports Centre (63947)

Sellers, Attenborough and Carmichael (Bravo, 4.00pm)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00pm Rugby (4157121) 8.00 Netbusters (4173169) 9.00 Ford Scorpio Golf USA (4178256) 11.00 Rugby (7749782) 12.00-1.00am Netbusters (5292183)

SKY SOAP
7.00am Guiding Light (7569256) 7.55 As the World Turns (9294275) 8.50 Peyton Place (2400131) 9.20 Days of Our Lives (7962614) 10.10-11.00 Another World (1527625)

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (4789256) 11.30 Roads to Freedom (4780985) 12.00 Discover Your World (9506594) 12.30pm Frugal Gourmet (5130324) 1.00 Around the World (7762833) 1.30 Travel (5139695) 2.00 Ski (0752483) 3.00 Getaway (8294256) 3.30-4.00 Boomerang (2316633)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm The Great Days of Our Century: October, Russian Revolution (4770508) 5.00 The Changing Face of Britain (8285508) 6.00-7.00 Biography: Hercules (5148343)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
1.00am Swamp (5624742) 1.30 Ray Bradbury 2.00 FILM: Killer Bees (8024305) 3.30-4.00 The Making of Species (3993657)

TLC
9.00am Painting (6774504) 9.30 Grow With Joe (7121256) 10.00 Two's Country (7521527) 10.30 Our House (6770188) 11.00 The Painted House (5154169) 11.30 Repairs (5155898) 12.00 Julia Child (6754140) 12.30pm The Frugal Gourmet (7125072) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (8297324) 1.30 Local Heroes (7134343) 2.00 Dogs With Dunbar (2641411) 2.30 Secret Gardens (1928275) 3.00 Two's Country (2660546) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (1990492)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (8290411) 7.30 Neighbours (8219546) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (8753411) 8.30 EastEnders (6752782) 9.00 The Bill (6776362) 9.30 The Sullivans (7133614) 10.00 All Creatures Great and Small (8208430) 11.00 Dallas (8295966) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (8763898) 12.30pm Neighbours (7127430) 1.00 EastEnders (8299782) 1.30 The Bill (7126701) 2.00 The Sullivans (61365527) 2.25 Are You Being Served? (2597430) 3.00 Angels (2663904) 3.30 Eldorado (1982850) 4.00 Casualty (35776121) 5.05 Generation Game (77653898) 6.15 Kenny's Comic Cuts (8032614) 6.25 EastEnders (7832528) 7.00 Eldorado (2654985) 7.30 Happy Ever After (1916898) 8.00 George and Mildred (2663633) 8.30 Home James (2642140) 9.00 Minder (4919121) 10.00 The Bill (9957140) 10.35 Classic Sport (6366343) 11.35 KYTV (2010512) 12.10am Dr Who (4721366) 12.40 FILM: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (88778560) 2.05 Shopping

TCC
6.00am Swan's Crossing (10121) 6.30 Pugwall (38053) 7.00 Ready or Not (60140) 7.30 California Dreams (89275) 8.00 Sweet Valley High (49072) 8.30 Tiny TCC (55996904) 12.35pm Tiny TCC (49906121) 2.30 Jim Henson (5053) 3.00 Sonic (8411) 3.30 Pink Panther (7898) 4.00 California (9633) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (5817)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Henry's Cat (5694850) 6.15 Blue (502817) 6.45 Toucan Tex (9345343) 7.00 Batfink (7404324) 7.05 Grimmy (6178898) 7.45 Nicktoon Breakfast Feast (1367701) 9.00 Alvin (76099) 9.30 Pee-Wee (47166) 10.00 Banana Sandwich (58643) 11.00 Children's BBC (97169) 12.00 Magic School Bus (13633) 12.30pm Grimmy (41904) 1.00 Global Guts (91985) 1.30 Visionaries (40275) 2.00 Children's BBC (52508) 3.00 The Littlest Pet Shop (2695) 3.30 Hero Turtles (4782) 4.00 The Ferals (3817) 4.30 Rugrats (2701) 5.00 Sister Sister (7140) 5.30 Nancy Drew (3053) 6.00 Ren and Stimpy (5986) 6.30 Pete and Pete (4546) 7.00 The Odyssey (7904) 7.30-8.00 Dracula (3430)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Bush Tucker (1919527) 4.30 Lifeboat (1908411) 5.00 Treasure (2665091) 5.30 Terra X (1922091) 6.00 Invention (1929904) 6.30 Beyond 2000 (3526576) 7.30 Arthur C Clarke (1909140) 8.00 The Professionals (4937527) 9.00 Top Marques (5167633) 9.30 Science Detectives (7112508) 10.00 Wheels (4310850) 11.00-12.00 Islands (8207701)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM. Plan 9 from Outer Space (6911275) 1.30pm Death Valley Days (7128169) 2.00 Danger Man (7519782) 3.00 The Buccaneers (2657072) 3.30 William Tell (1927546) 4.00 FILM. I'm All Right Jack. With Peter Sellers, Richard Attenborough and Ian Carmichael (2668186) 6.00 Dead at 21 (1916430) 6.30 Jason King (3421922) 7.30 The Protectors (1903966) 8.00 Space 1999 (4924053) 9.00 The Prisoner (4944817) 10.00-12.00 FILM: Porky's (5145411)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour 7.00 Kilroy (9789459) 8.00 Esther (9300324) 8.30 Front Gardens (9309695) 9.00 Gourmet Ireland (3231140) 9.35 Kate and Allie (2438053) 10.05 Jerry Springer (8472382) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (8884411) 11.55 Brookside (8423898) 12.30pm Dangerous Women (9824968) 1.30 Crosswits 2.00 Agony Hour 3.00 Live at Three (1087140) 4.00 Infatuation UK (1522411) 4.30 Crosswits (3124072) 5.05 Lingo (82594492) 5.30 Lucky Ladders 6.00 Bewitched (1549188) 6.30 Brookside (2131121) 7.05 Rhodes (2984362) 7.40 Joker's Wild (1042904) 8.05 The Young and the Restless (5162275) 9.00 FILM: Little White Lies (8745966) 11.00-12.00 Sex (6761121)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (3578) 5.30 Tintin (333546) 5.55 Batman (976527) 6.30 Catchphrase (7102) 7.00 Through the Keyhole (3332) 7.30 My Two Dads (6546) 8.00 Mckenna (49850) 9.00 Ruth Rendell (69614) 10.00 Treasure Hunt (62701) 11.00 Neon Rider (86188) 12.00 Tintin (62314) 12.30am Bordertown (67928) 1.00 Batman (56096) 1.30 Rhoda (70154) 2.00 Big Brother Jake (83855) 2.30 Neon Rider (36164) 3.30 Rhoda (77164) 4.00 Big Brother Jake (98657) 4.30-5.00 Ocean Odyssey (77589)

MTV
6.00am Awake (85966) 7.30 The Grind (81633) 8.00 3 from 1 (8918053) 8.15 Awake (2219968) 9.00 Videos (209817) 12.00 Soul (69695) 1.00pm Hits (77343) 2.00 Music Non-Stop (4486481) 3.15 3 from 1 (3647985) 3.30 Sports (9256) 4.00 Cinematic 4.15 Hanging Out (4313140) 5.00 News 5.15 Hanging Out (4248140) 5.30 Dial MTV (8527) 6.00 Boom! (64879) 7.00 Hanging Out (72188) 8.00 Hits (58508) 9.00 The Worst of Most Wanted (34430) 9.30 Guide to Alternative Music (48850) 10.30 Beavis and Butt-Head (38968) 11.00 News 11.15 Cinematic (658695) 11.30 Aeon Flux (50275) 12.00 The Pulse (76164) 12.30am The End? (42980) 1.30 Videos (9400837)

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (7761904) 9.00 Cafe (8625850) 12.00 Heart and Soul (5151817) 1.00pm Vinyl (5137237) 2.00 Neil and Tim Finn (8900071) 3.00 Into the Music (2253256) 6.00 Del Amitri (5140701) 7.00 VH-1 for You (4166879) 8.00 Review (4175527) 9.00 Kirsty McColl (4189091) 10.00 Vinyl (4158850) 11.00 The Bridge (8447546) 1.00am Right Said Fred (2490270) 2.00 Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV •
7.00am Asian Morning (86096966) 8.30 Yule Love Stories (13955594) 9.00 Tamil FILM: Araro Anraro (90740633) 12.00 Dekh Bhai Dekh (19355530) 12.30pm India Show (53274701) 1.00 Hindi FILM (62508343) 4.00 Zee Top Ten (42733411) 5.00 Zee Zone (37325091) 5.30 Punjabi Folk (11181850) 6.00 Countdown to Cricket (11111091) 6.30 Zee and U (11102343) 7.00 Antakshari (37312527) 7.30 Galaxzee (11108527) 8.00 News (37321275) 8.30 Andaz (37300782) 9.00 Urdu Serial: Kachey Dhagey (57152343) 10.00 Zee Horror Show 10.30 Your Zindagi (22400409) 11.00 Commander (42734140) 11.30-12.00 Sri Krishna

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Cartoons from 5am to 7pm; TNT films. 7.00pm The Canterville Ghost (1944) (82476427) 9.00 Shoes of the Fisherman (1968) (73429053) 11.50 Of Human Hearts (1938) (83323324) 2.45-5.00am Bedevilled (1955) (68535742)

(مكتبة الأهرام)

مكتبة الأهل

CRICKET 38
ILLINGWORTH READY TO RING IN THE CHANGES FOR ENGLAND

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 41
SCOTLAND KEEP FAITH WITH TRIED AND TESTED

THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1996

Coach to stand down after European championship to concentrate on court battles

Venables leaves FA in muddle over England

By Rob Hughes, football correspondent

SO MUCH of the life and times of Terry Venables has the fictional quality of an episode of *EastEnders* that one hesitates even now to accept as final the announcement that he will be the England coach only until the country is eliminated — or victorious — in the European championship this summer.

So much of the Football Association's thinking is more muddled than any soap opera that one wonders whether the FA wants him, trusts him or can cope with the litigation and innuendo around him. For all the apparent logic in Venables's statement last night, in which he said he must give his time in the autumn to fighting Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, in the High Court, *there is the nagging truth that* the legal implications were known at Lancaster Gate before he even crossed the threshold. So, if resignation after Euro '96 is irreversible, is it a premature announcement, or one that comes two years too late?

One must learn to never say never when it comes to Venables. One often has to read between the lines of his statements and his actions. "In the circumstances, the things I've got ahead could be problematical," he said with understatement yesterday. "Around October or November [when England play vital World Cup qualifying games] I could be in court, and that's something I feel I have to do. It may be a bit of an embarrassment for the FA, and if that were OK with my employers, it would be no problem. But there will always be people who say that it is a distraction ... but this makes *me even more determined to* leave the job on a successful note. I will do everything in my power to make it so." The fact is that Venables and the FA are announcing their parting of the ways before anything in the football sense is proven for or against him. They gave him a contract, an act of faith when he was out of work and even then entangled in a legal quagmire, up to and including the European championship. Why should anyone expect that he has earned an extension to that deal, one that could possibly have cost the FA the better part of £500,000?

VENABLES' RECORD

Date	Result
Mar 9, 1994	England 1 Denmark 0
May 17, 1994	England 5 Greece 0
May 22, 1994	England 0 Norway 0
Sept 7, 1994	England 2 US 0
Oct 12, 1994	England 1 Romania 1
Nov 16, 1994	England 1 Nigeria 0
Mar 29, 1995	England 0 Uruguay 0
June 3, 1995	England 2 Japan 1
June 8 1995	England 3 Sweden 3
June 11, 1995	England 1 Brazil 3
Sept 6, 1995	England 0 Colombia 0
Oct 11 1995	Norway 0 England 0
Nov 15, 1995	England 3 Switzerland 1
Dec 12, 1995	England 1 Portugal 1

How Venables compares to former England coaches after 14 games

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Walter Winterbottom	14	12	2	0	54	11
Sir Alf Ramsey	14	10	1	3	51	22
Don Revie	14	9	4	1	29	8
Ron Greenwood	14	10	3	1	29	9
Bobby Robson	14	7	5	2	36	8
Graham Taylor	14	10	3	1	22	8
Terry Venables	14	6	7	1	20	10

You cannot judge a man after 14 uncompetitive matches. The record of only six wins, only 20 goals and, indeed, only one defeat, tells us little, because the word friendly has been paramount to his work and that of the opposition. Friendly implies experimentation, it denotes that the result need not necessarily be counted, that both managers are searching for rhythm, teamwork, using the play as a platform for the future.

I will declare my hand. I would not, on the basis of a series of friendly games, reappoint any manager, any coach, *and I would be greatly* concerned by the allegations that continue to come, as regularly as London buses, with Venables. The FA seems as confused now as it was in the beginning when, two years ago, Sir Bert Millichip, its ageing chairman, stated that Venables would be coach "over my dead body", and promptly helped to appoint him. Alas, Millichip's legacy — for, at 82, he has given notice that he will retire this summer — is another muddle.

Millichip was ready to extend the contract, but neither he nor anyone has a clue who will succeed him as chairman. How, then, could Millichip know if the next leader of football in England would support the reappointment?

The priority at Lancaster *Gate should be obvious. The* FA must move quicker than usual and accelerate the nomination of the next chairman before it even contemplates the new coach. It is no good calling Ian Stott and Noel White, two members of the 15-man international committee, Judases for their public disquiet over the way the media and Sir Bert appeared to be hastening towards a new contract for Venables. Rather, these two might be seen as the two wise men of the committee, the two reasonable and questioning minds.

The whole of football would prefer to isolate the football man, and not the beleaguered private man, and get behind Venables. "They should have left him alone to do his job," Fred Venables, Terry's father, said on Radio 5 Live yesterday. "Terry is a football man, I don't think they can get anyone in this country better than him, and now they'll have to try, won't they?"

Indeed they will. Immediate candidates who come to mind are Kevin Keegan, for his flair *and inspiration, Bryan* Robson, because he is a coach in the Venables set-up and continuity is *prized*, and possibly the favourite, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, who can organise players into a team beyond their technical deficiencies.

What makes Francis a very likely and credible replacement is the *timing. His* reluctance throughout his managerial career to sign lengthy contracts means that he will be free man at the *moment the FA need someone* in June. Keegan is tied to a ten-year contract with Newcastle United, has just built a home *on the club chairman's estate*, and will be a messiah on Tyneside if he lands the FA Carling Premiership title.

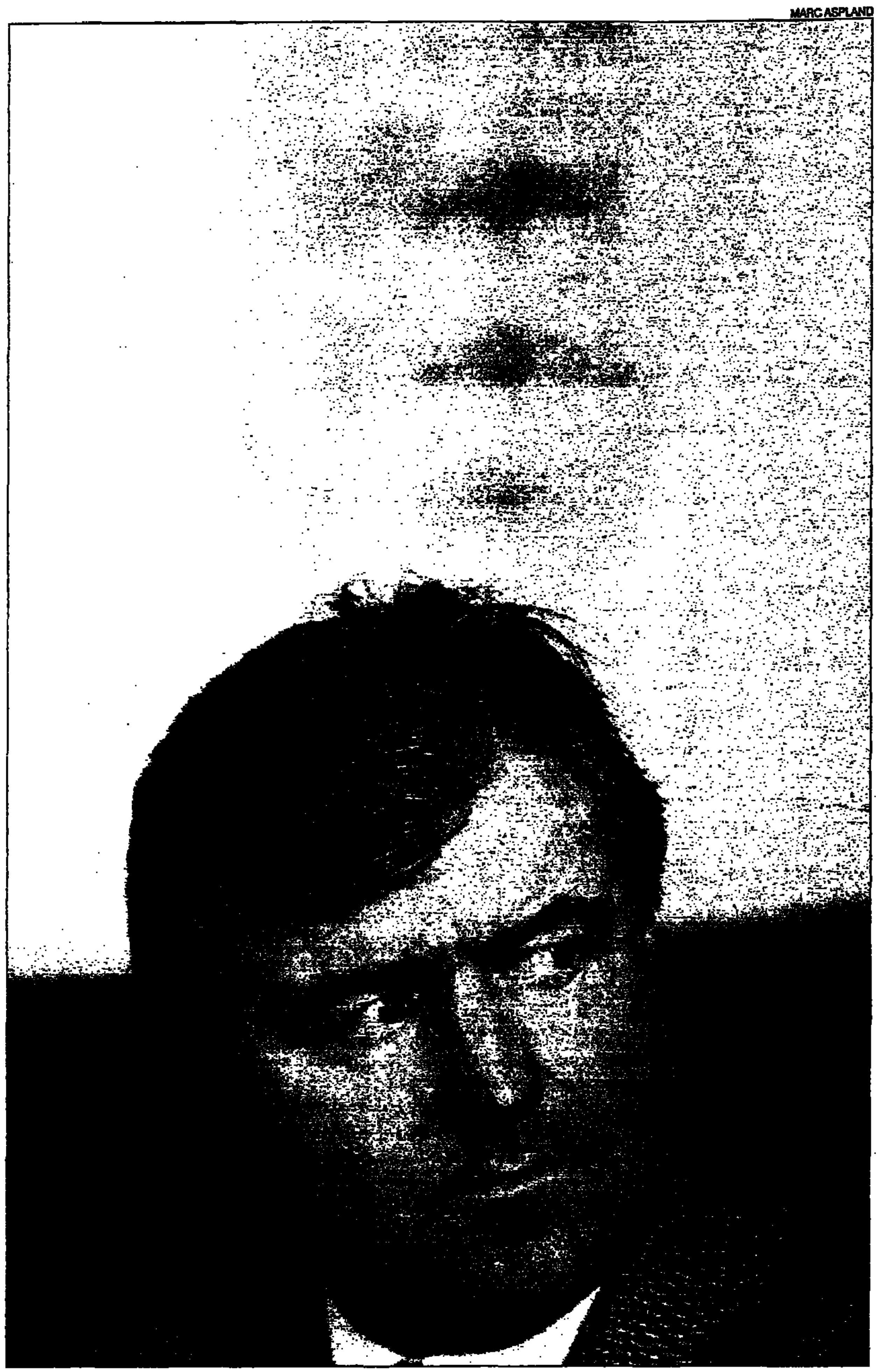
Just down the road, and some way behind in aspiration, is Robson. His commitment to Middlesbrough and his coaching experience with England are in their infancy. And even his presence inside Venables's *team cannot* compensate for the lack of experience. Keegan might be the ideal person to cope with the media circus but Francis is available if willing.

Sugar, having driven out Venables and continued to hound him, would thus be *deprived of the club manager* who has lately been Tottenham's saviour. A final twist of irony in the "factional" whirl around the Venables story.

It is not yet goodbye, not even *au revoir*. It is clarification of what the original contract offered, a chance to guide England to the European championship. "Do what you *gona do, sunshine*," Fred Venables said in Dagenham last night. "Don't worry about Terry, he can take them all right." In the purely footballing sense, one can only hope there is something in this parental plea.

Final decision, page 1
Hughes recall, page 40

MARC ASPLAND



Venables has had much to think about, on and off the field, during his brief tenure as the England coach

FA chose to ignore warning signs

By Peter Ball

PERHAPS the greatest surprise in Terry Venables's decision to stand down as England coach is not his failure to gain support from the Football Association (FA) now, but the *fact that he was given the* position at all. If his troubles off the field show no sign of ending, they were visible before he was appointed.

"I think there are many people who would like to see Venables as England manager, but he has this funny reputation," Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, said on January 13, 1994. Three days later, even though *The Financial Times* had published an article questioning Venables's business dealings, Millichip had put those *qualms aside, suggesting that*, if Venables should be appointed to coincide with the European championship draw, "it would be a marvellous publicity stunt".

Sadly, much of Venables's publicity since then has undermined him. Before he was appointed as England coach, the war with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, had already reached the courts, Venables failing in his attempt to regain control of the club. A *Panorama* programme in 1993 had raised questions about the way that he had financed his share of the purchase of Tottenham.

Doubts had been raised about the £200,000 paid to Gino Santin over the transfer of Paul Gascoigne. It was alleged by Sugar that £50,000 *was paid to Frank McLintock* as a "bung" for Brian Clough. That became the subject of a police inquiry, but was dropped for lack of evidence. Edennote, Venables's company which was at the centre of his purchase of Tottenham, *was wound up on petition* from Tottenham in May 1994.

The costs of his court cases, however, continued to linger, and Scribes West, his club, has also been involved in his financial problems.

Venables is being sued by Sugar for libel after statements in his autobiography, while Venables, himself, intends to resort to the courts to clear his name with writs against *Panorama* among others.

Respect for past, fears for future

By Our Sports Staff

TERRY VENABLES'S decision to stand down this summer shocked many within the domestic game. Players and managers were quick to praise the England coach and to reflect on the problems that his post carried with it.

Craig Brown, his *Scotland* counterpart, said: "I have the utmost respect for Terry as a coach and that's all that matters — I am not concerned about off-the-field matters.

"Of course, international managers are conscious of the *image that they must portray* and the fact that we have to uphold traditions, and I'm sure that Terry acts with honesty and integrity."

Brown might play a part in bringing Venables's reign to an early close if his side were *to prevent England from* qualifying for the knockout stages of the championships when they meet at Wembley in June. "England will be a very difficult game for us in the European championships due in great part to Terry's skill as a *coach," he* said.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, said: "Terry played at the top level and has been a manager a long time. The FA knew what was happening" when they took *him* on and knew the situation all along.

"One has to make sure that your lifestyle is such that people can't get at you and Terry has been exposed in this area. Terry's problem is that he hasn't had competitive games."

Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, said: "Terry Venables is a very talented football coach and he hasn't had the easiest of jobs as England manager.

"He's done extremely well to build up the team towards the European championships. What has gone on with the FA is his own private matter."

Darren Anderton was "shocked and saddened" by the news. The England midfield player, signed by Venables when he was manager of *Tottenham Hotspur*, said: "Terry is the best coach I have ever worked with and almost certainly the best in the country. It seems a strange decision. It's sad because things are looking good for the England side in the build-up to Euro '96."

Two former England forwards now working in the media were equally concerned. Trevor Brooking felt that it left the FA in a difficult position with regard to appointing a successor.

"It's a great shame about *the timing,*" he said. "I don't think Kevin Keegan would want to leave Newcastle with them in their current position and Bryan Robson is just settling in at the Riverside. English football finds itself in a horrendous position."

Gary Lineker said: "I don't think Terry's decision will affect our Euro '96 chances. We faced the same situation in the 1990 World Cup, when we knew that Bobby Robson would be quitting at the end of the competition. The real worry *is qualifying* for the 1998 World Cup."

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, said: "I can't think of anyone who could do the job any better. Whoever takes it ends up getting slaughtered and they get *nothing but* grief."

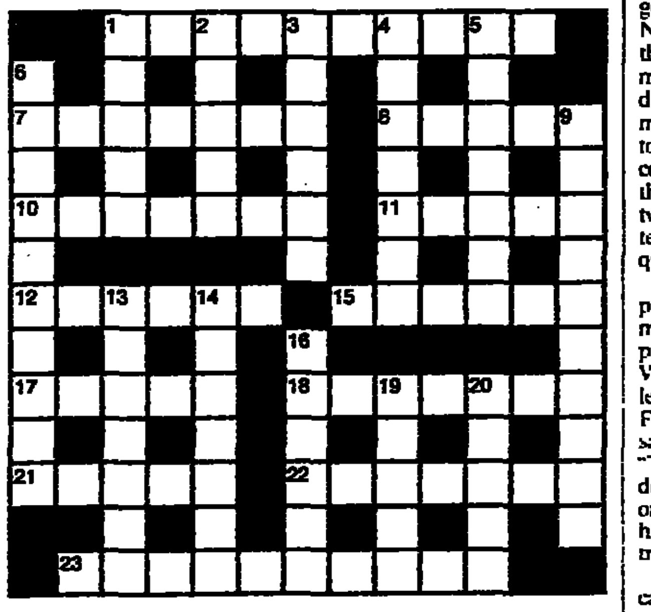
Redknapp is a 50-1 outsider for the post and added: "I'm definitely not in the running. I'd like to live a few years yet."

Lineker: does not think England's chances this summer will be affected

Gould: feels Venables struggled due to lack of competitive games

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 675 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Literary hack-work world (4.6)
7 Instance (7)
8 Unseeing (5)
10 Tidy: instructed (7)
11 Diagram, map (5)
12 Flight to safety (6)
15 Old medium-distance club (6)
17 Brilliant distinction (5)
18 Droplet-sprayer (7)
21 Indian skin-tent (5)
22 One from North East Spain (7)
23 *Crime and Punishment* author (10)

DOWN
1 Impressive, splendid (5)
2 Higher (5)
3 Solid, constant, regular (6)
4 D. Du Maurier novel: wife of Isaac (7)
5 Tombstone message (7)
6 Plot resolution (10)
9 On which one signs (6.4)
13 Greek nymph: Caribbean song (7)
14 NHS customer: virtuous as Griselda (7)
16 Socially awkward (6)
19 Old property tax (5)
20 Foolish: close (cricket) (5)

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ACROSS: 1 Mitigate 5 Odds 8 Castaway 9 Bung 11 Elegy 12 Measles 13 Hazard 15 Proton 18 Selfish 19 Colon 21 Lair 22 Informal 23 Oral 24 Sensuous
DOWN: 1 Macbeth 2 Taste 3 Gravy train 4 Trauma 6 Doublet 7 Sages 10 Capricious 14 Zuleika 16 Nonplus 17 Whinge 18 Salvo 20 Limbo

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